

Janell Kittleson  
3295 Helms Road  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
RE: Testimony for Janell Kittleson in support of SB1037

April 12, 2017

Dear Committee Members,

**I am requesting the passage of SB 1037.** I am a mother and farmer in Josephine County. The food I put on my table and the harvest from our farm that is shared with our community, must be free from GE contamination.

We grow exclusively organic produce and raise exclusively organic beef and pork from the surplus produce we grow. We have been able to maintain our boutique family farm due to our dedication to organic farming methods, from feed to seed to table. Contamination from Genetically Engineered (GE) crop pollen is a real threat to both the food we grow, the feed we provide our animals, the seeds we save each season and the profits we make from selling each.

In one season, pollen drift from GE crops can contaminate our organic corn crop, and our beet, chard and corn seed. Contamination means we are no longer Organic. Both Organic & conventional farming does not have a defense against GE contamination whereas GE farming is not at risk from conventional or organic farming practices. This creates a monopoly on farming, not an equal growing field.

Our family farm does not have the financial means to fight legal battles with the patent holders of GE seeds and we will be at the mercy of these monstrous GE seed companies should our rights to grow GE Free crops (and GE Free Seeds) not be protected.

There is no option for co-existence. The only farmer at risk is the Non-GE farmer, both financially and ideologically. This is not in the financial interest of the people of Josephine County, the people of Oregon or the world at large. Seed diversity fuels our economy and protects the world from a food crisis. Without the ability to protect our seeds and crops, we run the risk of irreversible loss of seed & crop diversity.

We the people & farmers of Josephine County Oregon have already voted for these protections. Won't you please stand with the constituents of Josephine County, **support SB 1037 and vote YES for Rural Oregon?**

With gratitude,  
Janell Kittleson