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Chair Dembrow and Committee Members:

My name is Anna Scharf and I am a farmer and family business owner in Polk County, Oregon. My family owns and operates about 2,500 acres west of Salem growing 10 different crops and providing seed cleaning and warehouse services to five other family owned farms and ten Oregon seed companies. We have farmed in Polk County since 1933 and I am the proud mom of the 5th generation farmer, also known as my son. I am urging you vote No on SB1037.

ODA is the only government agency in the state that is equipped to regulate agriculture. Counties and cities do not have the resources or expertise to determine if a field is a GMO crop, an organic crop or a traditional crop. Nor do the counties and the cities have the economic understanding to pick winning and losing crops.

The supporters of SB1037 often states that “pollen knows no boundaries” and GMO crops will ruin their Organic crops. This bill does nothing to solve that. I know farmers that farm property in Polk County and the field across the road is in Yamhill County. What if Yamhill bans GMO Sileage corn? The field across the road can still be planted to GMO Corn. Buffer zones already exist based on Oregon State University research and science. Farmers successfully use those to coexist without local government regulations.

Please protect Oregon's farmers by OPPOSING SB 1037! Oregon's seed preemption law protects my right to plant what crops work best for my farm and is important to farmers and ranchers!

Thank you for your time.

Anna Scharf
Scharf Farms Inc.
Perrydale, OR.