

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Hearing date: April 12, 2017  
Testimony from Barbara Richard in support of SB 1037

Chair Dembrow and committee members,

According to the USDA in a survey published last year, Oregon ranks 4th in the nation in dollars of organic sales (\$269 million in annual sales) - a double digit increase from the previous year.

Oregon is one of the world's premium seed growing regions. Oregon farmers are well positioned to continue to benefit from this economic opportunity, in particular those who grow organic seed crops, which are in high demand. However, right now Oregon farmers' organic seed crops are at risk. The State has had 4 years to implement some protections against GE contamination, but has done nothing.

So, now is the time to act to restore local control and allow local communities to protect these seed crops from contamination by genetically engineered crops. The future of this industry in Oregon is in your hands. Also, please keep in mind that this bill will cost the State nothing!

Cross pollination happens. It's how biology works. Let's take action today for the bounty of tomorrow. Support SB 1037.

Barbara Richard

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