

Dear Chair Williamson,

Please oppose HB 2739 which would hold seed patent holders of genetically engineered (GE) crops financially responsible if a GE plant is found where it wasn't intentionally planted.

This bill is bad for Oregon farmers because coexistence has, and does work for Oregon farmers. There are markets for all types of agriculture in Oregon - organic, conventional, GE, and identity preserved. This bill elevates all other types of agriculture above GE crops. Despite what some groups claim, GE crops pose no unique risk to neighboring crops than their non-GE counterparts. For example, the presence of GE material does not affect USDA Organic status. So, as long as an organic grower takes the proper precautions as required under the USDA rules, they are at no risk of losing certification. In fact, not a single farmer has ever lost their organic certification due to the adventitious presence of GE material. It is also important to remember that seed patent holders have no control over what the end user does with a product.

Please support Oregon agriculture by voting no.

Sincerely,

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