

Dear Chair Jeff Barker and Members of House Committee on Rules,

James and I have been organic farmers and business owners (Naturespirit Herbs LLC) for almost 30 years. We live in Josephine County, Oregon.

We are writing you today to ask you to please support HB 2739.

Over the past decade, repeated episodes of contamination by genetically engineered plants have cost U.S. farmers billions of dollars.

We are asking you, the Legislature to act now to:

- Hold patent holders responsible for contamination events- not pit farmer against farmer
- **Protect high-value crops in Oregon, such as specialty seed, wheat and alfalfa, which have been put at significant risk by GE contamination**
- Protect communities from the unwanted presence of invasive GE weeds, such as Creeping Bentgrass, now de-regulated and spreading in Malheur and Jefferson counties.

Thank you in advance,

James Jungwirth and Kari Rein

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