

Dear Chair Williamson,

Mrs. Williamson-

As a Central Oregon farmer, I strongly oppose HB 2739!

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 puts at risk the work of local seed breeders and university researchers. Seed patent holders have no control over what the end user does with a product. With liability for "treble damages" and no control over the growing methods used by farmers, many seed companies could stop selling certain varieties in our state, limiting choices for Oregon growers. Because of Oregon's wonderful agricultural diversity-both in crops and growing methods-coexistence is key. Oregon farmers have worked with their neighbors for over 100 years managing coexistence conflicts.

This bill flies in the face of that work by picking "winners" and "losers."

Sincerely,

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