



Oregon Bioscience Association

May 23, 2017

Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition of HB 2739

Representative Jennifer Williamson, and Committee Members;

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) represents Oregon's \$4.1 billion bioscience industry. Bioscience and bio-technology is the fifth largest sector in the state and one of Oregon's steadiest economic engines. Over 700 bioscience related organizations employ approximately 15,000 Oregonians. Our members are committed to the advancement of the latest technology in human and animal health and the ethical use of the products our members develop.

We oppose HB 2739, as it would have a potential chilling effect on the innovation of new products. While HB 2739 focuses on genetically modified organisms, our membership at-large is concerned with the dangerous precedent of holding the original innovator liable for the use of products they invent or produce. Not only does this create undue risk on innovators, it also asks producers to intervene in processes far down the supply chain unrelated to their businesses. Patent holders have no control over what the end-user does with a product. With liability for "treble damages" and no control over the grower's use of the product, patent holders are exposed to risks without any policy justification.

As the collective voice for the bioscience industry in Oregon, Oregon Bio asks you to oppose HB 2739 and its considerable unintended consequences,

Sincerely,

Denise McCarty, Executive Director