

**From:** Sabolch Horvat  
**To:** [HRULES Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Smith Warner](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 2739 to Protect Family Farms  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 7:52:39 PM

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Dear Chair Williamson and Committee Members,

According to Our Family Farms, over the past decade repeated episodes of contamination by genetically engineered plants have cost U.S. farmers billions of dollars.

I am passionate about eating responsibly and supporting opportunities for family farms. Also, my partner completed a farming apprenticeship last year and is working less than 0.5 acres organically this year. Although there is enough reason from those two statements that would lead to my support for HB 2739, I am also genuinely concerned about the future of the land in Oregon.

Here are two examples that demonstrate my concern:

According to Our Family Farms, high-value crops in Oregon, such as specialty seed, wheat, and alfalfa are in danger of GMO contamination. We need to protect communities from the unwanted presence of invasive GE weeds, such as Creeping Bentgrass, now de-regulated and spreading in Malheur and Jefferson counties.

Earlier this month news from Bakersfield, California caught my attention. During a cabbage harvest on a farm, farmworkers became sick due to pesticide drift from a neighboring mandarin orange grove. Many farms using genetically engineered plants today are large-scale industrial operations that use GMO plants resistant to large amounts of industrial pesticide and herbicide spraying. These industrial operations are using fossil-fuel intensive methods of farming that cause short-term and long-term issues to the land, the people working the land, and then the people consuming the food.

Oregon agriculture needs HB 2739 to protect our farms and land. Oregon's future generations need HB 2739 to protect our opportunities to farm this land in our future.

Thank you,  
Sabolch Horvat  
Portland, Oregon