

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.

This bill also puts at risk the work of local seed breeders and university researchers. Genetic engineering is a key breeding technique for creating new crop varieties, but the liability created by this bill would greatly discourage those developments. It is important to remember that seed patent holders have no control over what the end user does with a product. So, 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."

Please support Oregon agriculture and vote NO on HB 2739

Sincerely,

Bob Bray
1151 Riley Rd
Eagle Point, OR 97524
bobbray9@gmail.com

Anne Marie Moss
267 Missouri Ave S
Salem, OR 97302
annemarie@oregonfb.org

Bill Gasser
22990 Malone Rd
Merrill, OR 97633
billg@basinfertilizer.com

Brett Dunn
1225 NW 21st St
Albany, OR 97321

bdunn@wilburellis.com

Chris O'Grady
24666 Wilson Rd
Merrill, OR 97633
cogrady@basinfertilizer.com

Constance M Atkinson
83575 Territorial Hwy
Eugene, OR 97405
mac3853@gmail.com

Taylor Farms
2538 Drift Creek Rd NE
Silverton, OR 97381
TaylorFarmsInc@gmail.com

Gary Tamura
3711 Masee Grade Rd
Hood River, OR 97031
g.tamura@hotmail.com

Jared Gidley
3900 Heron Dr
Hood River, OR 97031
gidleyja@gmail.com

Kathryn Downing
39468 Wendling Rd
Marcola, OR 97454
kathy.downing1932@gmail.com

Patsy Jo Gasser
PO Box 452
Merrill, OR 97633
pgasser@basinfertilizer.com

Sara Duncan
421 Livingood Ln
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
sara.e.duncan@gmail.com

Will Homer
49090 Highway 19
Fossil, OR 97830
homer.will@gmail.com

Jacob L. Vail
92433 Leaf Court Dr
Astoria, OR 97103
jacobvail@hamptonlumber.com

Melissa Fullerton
67131 End Rd
Summerville, OR 97876
melissa.fullerton@yahoo.com

S. Mark Vroman
2001 Front St NE
Salem, OR 97301
markvroman@hamptonlumber.com

Michael Roscoe
3294 Jayhawk Ct
Eugene, OR 97405
mbroscoe@gmail.com

Ty Hulse
22990 Malone Rd
Merrill, OR 97633
thulse@basinfertilizer.com

Susan Doverspike
30552 Hotchkiss Ln
Burns, OR 97720
doverspike@hotchkisscompany.com

Joel R. Ockunzzi
PO Box 727
Donnelly, ID 83615
joel@landandwildlife.com

Richard Twigg
31721 SW Firdale Rd
Cornelius, OR 97113
rleetwigg52@aol.com

Ellen Mooney

93614 Swamp Creek Rd
Blachly, OR 97412
right2farm@yahoo.com

Richard Winger
60374 Arnold Market Rd
Bend, OR 97702
rwininger@msn.com

Robert E Gasser
PO Box 452
Merrill, OR 97633
bg@basinfertilizer.com