

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee: Senator Courtney and Representative Clem

My name is *Ann Watters*. I am a Polarity Therapist a business I own in *Salem*. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2882**.

HB 2882 was written to create patent holder or manufacturer liability for genetically engineered (GE) contamination events in Oregon. Over the past decade, GE contamination events, and threats of contamination, have cost U.S. farmers **billions** of dollars—including Oregon farmers—in rejected sales, lost exports, and closed agricultural markets.

Oregon is one of the top 5 seed growing regions in the world. The specialty seed industry is valued at \$400 million and the vegetable specialty seed contained within that is worth \$50 million annually. Actual and potential GE contamination threatens this industry.

Oregon farmers lack protections from GE contamination because Oregon does not regulate GE crops. Further, with the exception of Jackson County, all Oregon counties are preempted from making decisions regarding seed cultivation in their jurisdictions, leaving a large regulatory gap.

While I ultimately want to see patent holders and manufacturers held responsible for GE pollen drift contamination so farmers aren't pitted against farmers, I support legislation that calls for the regulation of GE crops in Oregon.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Ann Watters RPE,BCPP

Polarity Center of Salem

1940 BREYMAN NE

Salem, OR 97301

503-581-6512

[twofivestars@comcast.net](mailto:twofivestars@comcast.net)