

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Wheeler . I am a community member in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2882**.

Patent holders and manufacturers of genetically engineered products should not be immune from liability. I am super excited that a progressive state like Oregon is considering holding them to account when their products contaminate organic farms and result in all sorts of detriment to people's livelihoods and the environment.

If a gas station was selling fuel that was toxic, and people were getting sick, the stations that sold the products and the companies that manufactured them would surely be held accountable. It would be a travesty if GE patent holders and producers are not held equally liable, just like it would be unconscionable for gas companies to not be held to account for toxic gas. Please support HR 2882, as protects Oregon farmers from further loss of sales, exports, and collapsing 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.

Brian Wheeler

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