

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shoshana Alexander. I am a resident of Ashland, Oregon, who is dedicated to growing and buying only organic produce. 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.

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.

Current legal precedent is unfavorable for farmers contaminated through no fault of their own. The legal theories of trespass, nuisance, negligence, and strict liability are not useful in GE contamination cases stemming from pollen drift. Right to Farm laws have not been useful either.

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.

Addressing GE contamination is important to me because it has not been clearly established that genetically modified foods are safe and wholesome. But there is no doubt that organically farmed produce IS safe and wholesome, for consumers and for the future of soil and what it produces. Organic farmers and their products need to be protected from contamination rather than ending up "paying" for neighbors who are ignorant of the negative impact of their choice to grow GE crops.

Please vote HB 2882 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation. Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Shoshana Alexander