

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I am an urban farmer living in Portland, Oregon and a beekeeper. I provide bees to organic orchards and farms all around the state. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2882**.

You may be aware that not long ago- less than a decade- Oregon had a profitable, robust sugar beet and sugar beet seed industry. Now it is extremely difficult to grow organic sugar beets, or even to find non gmo sugar beet seed. This is due to genetic contamination from gmo sugar beets. And gmo sugar cane has just been developed, so soon nearly our entire US sugar supply may be GMO. Here is a related article:

<https://www.npr.org/2011/01/25/133178893/a-tale-of-two-seed-farmers-organic-vs-engineered>

Meanwhile, demand for non-gmo and organic crops are among the fastest growing sectors of US and global agricultural markets.

<https://ota.com/news/press-releases/20236>

<https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/global-non-gmo-animal-feed-market-2019-2023-increasing-demand-for-non-gmo-products-to-boost-growth-technavio-2018-11-09>

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.

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