

May 8, 2019

Dear Chair Holey and Members of the Committee:

The below organizations and individuals have signed on in support of HB 2882-2, with Section (3) removed. Those who have signed on to this letter want to protect Oregon agriculture and the specialty seed industry by creating liability for genetically engineered (GE) contamination events in Oregon, or at the very least creating regulations that will minimize or prevent contamination.

GE contamination is a one-way contamination and the burden has always fallen on the farmer who needs to fence it out, which can be impossible in some geographic regions. Further, the legal precedent is not favorable for a farmer who is inadvertently contaminated by somebody else's GE crop.

Who should bear the burden of contamination by GE plants? The farmer who is trying to grow organic Swiss chard seed for other farmers and gardeners? Or the landowner who has been infested by hard-to-eradicate GE creeping bentgrass?

Oregon is one of the top five vegetable seed producers in the world. Our vegetable specialty seed industry is worth at least \$50 million dollars annually, with room for growth if the right protections are in place. Governor Brown recently spoke in the Capitol about wanting to maintain Oregon's standing as a leader in organic production. Ensuring that Oregon has a robust specialty seed industry that includes organic seed production is integral to this goal and will also help create an environmentally and economically resilient food system.

GE contamination, and the threat of contamination, costs farmers, including Oregon farmers, billions of dollars. In light of regulatory gaps in GE policy at the federal and state level, and because all Oregon counties except Jackson County, are preempted from addressing seed issues in their jurisdictions, it is time for the state to create GE regulations to prevent GE contamination. Please join me in protecting farmers and our specialty seed industry by supporting HB 2882-2, with the removal of Section (3).

Sincerely,

Our Family Farms

Cultivate Oregon

Center for Food Safety

Oregon Organic Coalition

Friends of Family Farmers

Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families

Victory Seeds (Molalla, OR)

Eloheh Farm (Newberg, OR)

Elise Higley, Farmer/Owner, Oshala Farm (Grants Pass, OR)

Chris Hardy, Owner, Hardy Seeds (Ashland, OR)

Lanita Witt, MD and Farmer, Willow-Witt Ranch (Ashland, OR)

Suzanna Willow, Owner/Manager, Willow-Witt Ranch (Ashland, OR)

Nancy Nelson, Owner, Peace Seed Organic (Oregon City, OR)

Kristine Lefever, President, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (Phoenix, OR)

Roxanne Magnuson, Outreach & Marketing Director, LifeSource Natural Foods (Salem, OR)

Courtlandt Jennings, CEO/Founder, Pickled Planet LLC (Ashland, OR)

Liz Schmidt, President, Organic and Healthy, Inc. (Ashland, OR)

Ray Seidler, Owner, Green Bough Farm / Dr. / Board Member, Our Family Farms (Ashland, OR)

Gi Poulos, Our Family Farms (Talent, OR)

Dana Lewis, Natural Tastes Farm, LLC (Gold Beach, OR)

Marisa Ringe, Zush Flower Farm (Tigard, OR)

Anna South, South Creek Farm (Ashland, OR)

Shelley Fisher, Farmer (Ashland, OR)

Gina Savage, Red Fern Farm (Jacksonville, OR)

Michael Perkins, Red Fern Farm (Jacksonville, OR)

James English, Partner/Owner, 3 Guys Farms, LLC (Grants Pass, OR)

Dave Rickus, Farmer (Saylorburg, OR)

Paul Goff, Dr./Owner, Branch Fence Organic Farm (O'Brien OR)

Debra Marquess, Manager, Sears Ranch (Creswell, OR)

Stacey Denton, Owner, Flora Farm (Williams, OR)

Jeffrey Bodony, Owner, Viriditas Wild Gardens (Days Creek, OR)

Cynthius Scanlon, Farmer (Eugene, OR)

K W Patterson, Executor, Cornelius Park (Eugene, OR)

Chi & Michele Scherer, Owner & Operators, Hihoe Produce at Bluebird Farm (Williams, OR)

Mark Wheeler, President, Pacific Botanicals LLC (Grants Pass, OR)

Christine Perala Gardiner, PhD/Owner, Siskiyou Alpaca (Cave Junction, OR)

Jonathan Spero, Lupine Knoll Farm (Grants Pass, OR)

Lynne Pucci, Farmer (Ashland, OR)

Katelyn Detweiler, Farmer, Big Red Barn Farm (Phoenix, OR)

Kerrick Gooden, Owner/Farmer, Verdant Phoenix Farm (Phoenix, OR)

Sarah Atkins, Rahane Forest Farm (Hood River, OR)

Heidi Martins, Crooked Barn Vineyards (Applegate, OR)

Karen Farmer, Farmers Table Grapes (Rickreall, OR)

Anne Eldridge, Farm Manager, Antonio's Farm (Talent, OR)

Summer Waters, LAc, NTP, CGP, Health Advocate/Guide, Summer Waters, LLC (Butte Falls, OR)

Pamala Joy, Director, Ashland Food Angels (Ashland, OR)

Kari Rein, Business Owner, Naturespirit Herbs LLC (Williams, OR)

James Jungwirth, Business Owner, Naturespirit Herbs LLC (Williams, OR)

Elizabeth Tobey, Food Systems, Farms, and Garden Educator (Ashland, OR)

Carol Hoon, Owner, Small Planet Baking Co. LLC (Applegate, OR)

Suzanna Nadler, Farmer/Psychotherapist, Self & Soul Center (Talent, OR)

Cameron Smith, Owner, Regenerative Design Services, LLC (Yachats, OR)

William Kauth, Director, Gift Community (Ashland, OR)

Rhonda Brown, RB Business Services (Medford, OR)

Jenet Johnsen, Resident, Village at Valley View (Ashland, OR)

Scott Draper, Founder/Owner, Club Northwest (Grants Pass, OR)

Heather Askins, Health Food Mart Inc. (Medford, OR)

Paul Sheldon, Founder, Dreamosophy / Limnosophy, LLC (Ashland, OR)

Ingrid Edstrom, FNP, M.Ed, Nurse Practitioner, Infrared Breast Health LLC / Proactive Breast Wellness, LLC (Eugene, OR)

Carley Corrado, Science Consultant, Enliven Leadership (Ashland, OR)

Tessa Scroggin-Lake, Founder, Alliance for Native Youth Success (Talent, OR)

Martin Donohoe, MD, FACP, Public Health and Social Justice, Prescription for Justice Television (Lake Oswego, OR)

Will & Charlotte Nuessle, Drs, Growing in Wellness, Inc. (Ashland, OR)

Linda Barnhart, Barnhart's Woodworking, (Eugene, OR)

Dwayne Hefstrom, Sportland Acupuncture, (Portland, OR)

Marga Laube, New World Story, (Ashland, OR)

Ann Watters, RPE,BCPP, Polarity Center of Salem, (Salem, OR)

Celeste, Howard, Dr., (Hillsboro, OR)

Kris Laurance (Woodburn, OR)

Karen B Taylor (Talent, OR)

Greg Prull (Eugene, OR)

Alison Sexauer (Jacksonville, OR)

Diana Anderson (Roseburg, OR)

Terry Anderson (Rogue River, OR)

Judith Arcana (Portland, OR)

William Bagley (Ashland, OR)

Barbara Baker (Portland, OR)

Gail Battaglia (Jacksonville, OR)

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Karen Black (Williams, OR)

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