

Dear Oregon State Legislature House Rules Committee,

As an Oregon voter, I urge you to support HB 2882 to protect Oregon's farmers from economic damages due to GMO contamination. And to protect all of our health, including our children who are most susceptible to the effects of environmental toxins.

Contamination of non-GMO crops by cross pollination and other means does serious damage to farmers and rural communities that comes with serious financial consequences. GMO contamination has cost billions of dollars to agriculture nationwide. Oregon farmers supporting their families by growing valuable non-GMO crops and landowners who have been infested by hard-to-eradicate GMO creeping bentgrass should not bear the burden of contamination by GMO crops, plants, and animals.

HB 2882 would rightfully put the liability for economic damages due to GMO contamination on the patent holder for the GMO (which is where it belongs!) It protects organic farmers by holding the companies who created and profited from these GMO crops accountable.

The federal government does nothing to protect farmers from GMO contamination, and the State of Oregon has also failed to act. It is time for Oregon to step up and be a leader. Making matters even worse is the fact that all counties except Jackson County are preempted from regulating the types of seeds used in their jurisdictions.

One of our Oregon and Willamette Valley treasures are our farmer's markets with the beautiful and delicious organic food choices. It would be a travesty if we would lose this treasure.

In light of these regulatory gaps, please protect Oregonians and our rural economies by supporting this important bill. I urge you to vote it out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Angelica Rehkugler
720 SE Atwood Ave Corvallis, OR 97333-1849