

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Angela Zehava. I am a Permaculturist in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2882**.

Right now, GMO agrigiants have created a perfect storm of pressures to crush their primary competitor, the organic farmer. Already, GMO agrigiants have, through political donations and maneuvering, obtained large government subsidies for their products, for which organic farmers are ineligible. GMO agrigiants have little to no regulation of their activities, while organic farmers have to self fund expensive monitoring and certification (e.g. Oregon Tilth). Courts have decided that life can be patented, and that non-GMO farmers can be held liable for GMO contamination of their seed-- even if they actively attempt to prevent this contamination. GMO agrigiants have the financial resources to surveil, harass, and sue small farmers, and regularly do so. This is not only unjust, it is anti-capitalist. This is a business that is acting more and more like a crime syndicate seeking a monopoly, and it must be stopped.

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.

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

Signature