

Dear Oregon State Legislature House Rules Committee,

As a deeply concerned Oregon voter, I urge you to support HB 2882 to protect Oregon's farmers from economic damages due to GMO contamination - and increasingly serious problem for many of Oregon's farmers.

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. It protects organic farmers by holding the Big Ag players 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. 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.

In light of these regulatory gaps, please protect Oregonians and our rural economies by supporting this important bill which would be a special boon to many of our smaller, local food producers, already struggling to survive.

I strongly urge you to vote HB2882 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Emilie Marlinghaus
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