

Dear Chair Holvey,

Farmers have enough trouble making a living without unnecessary interference from government. This bill is just that. GMOs got a bad rap because of some false and bad pr. They are now gradually becoming accepted. There is no reason for the legislature to put out bad legislation that would just make it harder for farmers to grow crops that would make them money and possibly help feed the world or cure some disease.

Please oppose both HB 2882 and the -1 amendment, which create new liability for genetically engineered crops.

This bill is bad for Oregon farmers because coexistence has and does work. There are markets for all types of agriculture in Oregon - organic, conventional, GE, and identity preserved. This bill and the proposed amendments elevate all other types of agriculture above biotechnology.

Despite what some groups claim, GE crops pose no unique risk to neighboring crops than their non-GE counterparts. For example, the presence of GE material does not affect USDA Organic status. So, as long as an organic grower takes the proper precautions as required under the USDA rules, they are at no risk of losing certification. In fact, no single farmer has ever lost their organic certification due to the adventitious presence of GE material.

This bill also puts at risk the work of local seed breeders, university researchers and local farmers. Genetic engineering is a key breeding technique for creating new crop varieties, but the liability created by HB 2882 would greatly discourage the adoption of this innovation. We fear many seed companies could stop selling certain varieties in our state, limiting choices for Oregon growers. This could be particularly harmful given the carbon benefits provided by GE technology.

Because of Oregon's wonderful agricultural diversity-both for crops and growing methods-coexistence is key. Oregon farmers have worked with their neighbors for over 100 years managing coexistence conflicts. This bill flies in the face of that work by picking "winners" and "losers."

Please support Oregon agriculture and vote NO on HB 2882 and the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

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