



Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to request your support for **HB 2882**. I live in Grants Pass, Oregon, Josephine County. I am the director of local non-profit Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families and an advocate for local farmers. I represent more than 65 local farms and more than 300 local businesses in the county. 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.

Addressing GE contamination is important to me because I do advocate on behalf of farmers and work towards keeping corporate control away from our food and farms.

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

Best,

Mary Middleton

Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families

Josephine County, Oregon