

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2882

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Roxanne Magnuson. I'm a manager at LifeSource Natural Foods in Salem and I'm writing to request your support for **HB 2882**.

In our business the integrity of organic is imperative. This bill matters to all of us who work here as well as all of our customers. We are a \$13M business.

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.

Oregon is one of the top 5 seed growing regions in the world. The specialty seed industry is valued at \$400 million and the vegetable specialty seed contained within that is worth \$50 million annually. Actual and potential GE contamination threatens this industry.

Oregon 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. This, of course, is the direct result of successful financial incentive lobbying by the chemical companies which are the patent holders for GE crop seeds.

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. If organic must be regulated, then it certainly seems logical that GE should be regulated as well.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.
-Roxanne Magnuson

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