From: Rancier Racquel
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: FW: Oppose SB 633
Date: Friday, March 08, 2013 4:51:27 PM

From: Michelle Suess [mailto:srmmrs@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 4:35 PM
To: Sen Courtney
Subject: Oppose SB 633

CC: Racquel Rancier
Committee Administrator
Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development To be submitted as testimony for public hearing

I am writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 633.

Senate Bill 633 would strip counties in Oregon of their abilities to craft appropriate county-wide seed policies. SB 633 would give exclusive regulatory power over seeds, and products of agricultural seed, to the state, preempting local authority.

Several county policies could be affected by SB 633. For example, citizens in Jackson County have successfully achieved getting a ban on growing genetically engineered crops on the May 2014 ballot. Citizens in four other Oregon counties are also hard at work on similar county bans. Several counties and cities in California, Hawaii, Washington, and Maine have already adopted policies to ban the growing of GE crops in their counties. Oregon counties should be allowed the same level of local control as these other states. But if SB 633 passes, the state will take that power from our county.

Further, the broadness of SB 633 ignores local issues of economic viability which are best handled by local control. Contrary to the idea that a “patchwork” of local regulations will stifle growth, it is precisely the process of making decisions at the local level that best serves the unique conditions of our various counties.

Regardless of your opinion on genetically engineered crops, SB 633 goes too far. Seed and agricultural issues are unique to each climate, culture, and business community, and control over such matters should remain in the hands of each county.

Please oppose SB 633 so our county can maintain control of our regional economic and agricultural future.

I wish these comments to be submitted as testimony for public hearing.

Sincerely,

Michelle Suess
798 Browning Ave S
Salem OR, OR 97302