

Dear Administrator Freeman,

As a voting Oregonian, I would like to add my support to family farmers in Oregon by supporting HB 2469. This bill not only protects all farmers but helps preserve precious heirloom and organic seed for all of Oregon's children and their future.

Here is my understanding of the bill:

HB 2469: Restore farmer's rights. In 2013, the Oregon legislature took away the right of local government to regulate agriculture. Since then the legislature has failed to provide any meaningful statewide regulations to protect family farmers from the risks of genetically modified (GMO) crops.

[HB 2469](#) would restore the ability of local farmers to address their diverse agricultural needs at a community level by allowing communities to create measures such as GE-free zones to protect family farmers and specialty non-GMO crops.

HB 2739: Protect Oregon's agriculture. Over the past decade, repeated episodes of contamination by genetically engineered plants have cost U.S. farmers billions of dollars. Oregon farmers grow many high-value or specialty crops that are at significant risk of contamination by GMO crops. Creeping Bentgrass, a GMO grass, continues to spread in Malheur and Jefferson counties.

GMO crop contamination usually pits farmer against farmer. [HB 2739](#) would hold patent holders, instead of farmers, responsible for contamination events.

Thank you for taking time to listen to Oregonians.

Rozlyn Reynolds
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registered voter in Lincoln County