

March 16, 2017

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Christina Arapolu and I am a vegetable farmer that serves my community in the town of Rogue River, Jackson County and I was not able to be at the hearing today but I want to express my opinion in favor of House Bill 2469.

I believe that each county in our State is unique and should be allowed to decide if GE crops should be grown and potentially contaminate non GE crops. This is not a bill in favor or against GE crops but a bill to allow citizens the right to control what happens agriculturally in their own back yard. The State has given the rights to counties to choose to allow Cannabis to be grown, but removed the rights of counties to choose to allow GE crops or not, this does not seem consistent.

Our narrow valleys in Jackson County cannot co exist with the drift of GE crop and benefited greatly by the fact that we had the choice to ban GE crops and choose what was best for us. The fact that Jackson County has had this right has had a positive effect on our agricultural, allowing us to be labeled a seed sanctuary has brought in more contracts for seed growers which allows us more options for revenues from our farms and to attract young farmers that want to grow and breed natural seeds without fear of contamination. As an aging farmer looking to keep my land in agriculture and pass something on to younger farmers, this has been a blessing and I am grateful my farm is in Jackson County.

Please give this right back to the other counties in Oregon, they may choose otherwise but at least it is their choice for their unique situations. Please vote in favor of HB 2469. Thank you.

Christina Arapolu
Easy Valley Farm
2557 E Evans Creek Rd.
Rogue River, Or 97537