

*Protecting,  
promoting, and  
developing the  
organic seed trade*

May 8, 2019

Dear Chair Hovey and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to offer our support for HB 2882 and the -2 amendment.

**Board of Directors**

Jim Gerritsen  
Wood Prairie Family Farm  
Maine

Ruth Chantry  
Common Good Farm  
Nebraska

Martin Levin  
The Law Office of  
Martin E. Levin  
Massachusetts

Chris Hardy  
Hardy Seeds  
Oregon

Michael Glos  
Kingbird Farm  
New York

Daniel MacPhee  
Blackbird Rise Farm  
Maine

*Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association (OSGATA)* is the Certified Organic farmer controlled membership organization established in 2007 and dedicated to helping protect the organic community and to developing the organic seed trade.

Included among the OSGATA membership are Certified Organic seed farmers and seed companies in Oregon. Additionally, because Oregon is well-respected for producing high quality seed crops, we have many member seed companies across the United States which rely upon skilled Certified Organic seed farmers in Oregon to produce seed for their businesses.

It is reasonable that the corporate patent holders - which profit handsomely from genetically engineered (GE) crops - also be held accountable when their inventions cause harm. The "Polluter Pays" principle should be applied here. It is unfair for innocent family farmers and local government to bear the brunt of economic calamity caused by the misdeeds of large multinational biotech corporations. It is unwise to pit farmer against farmer. This legislation will properly place culpability with the owner of the patented seed technology.

Federal GE oversight has been a failure, and States must act or else farmers will pay the price for costly harm. USDA's failed to properly analyze the environmental impacts of GE Creeping Bentgrass escaping from field trials. The GE Bentgrass did escape and has caused infestations in Malheur and Jefferson Counties. After the escape, the corporations behind GE Bentgrass lobbied for it to be de-regulated, which means there is no longer the ability to hold them accountable. Now the cost of cleanup will fall to farmers and the state of Oregon. That's not right.

It's time to hold GE manufacturers accountable. We urge your support of HB 2882 and the -2 amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Jim Gerritsen*

Jim Gerritsen, President

Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association Board of Directors

