

Dear Oregon State Legislature House Rules Committee,

As an Oregon voter, I urge you to support HB 2882 to protect Oregon's farmers from economic damages due to GMO contamination.

A fundamental tenant of our civil society is to "respect and do no harm to your neighbor". No matter a person's opinion on GMO vs. non-GMO, is it really civil and just for a GMO farmer to contaminate the crop of a non-GMO farmer? How is that respecting your neighbor? Yet, time and time again we see these cases, where non-GMO farmers are drastically affected financially, while GMO farmers seem to have no concern for their operations and impact on others.

Contamination of non-GMO crops by cross pollination and other means does serious damage to farmers and rural communities that comes with serious financial consequences. GMO contamination has cost billions of dollars to agriculture nationwide. Oregon farmers supporting their families by growing valuable non-GMO crops and landowners who have been infested by hard-to-eradicate GMO creeping bentgrass should not bear the burden of contamination by GMO crops, plants, and animals.

HB 2882 would rightfully put the liability for economic damages due to GMO contamination on the patent holder for the GMO. It protects organic farmers by holding the Big Ag players who created and profited from these GMO crops accountable.

The federal government does nothing to protect farmers from GMO contamination, and the State of Oregon has also failed to act. Making matters even worse is the fact that all counties except Jackson County are preempted from regulating the types of seeds used in their jurisdictions.

In light of these regulatory gaps, please protect Oregonians and our rural economies by supporting this important bill. I urge you to vote it out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Matthew Bossard
494 Gustaf St Medford, OR 97501