

May 6, 2019

RE: Support of HB 2882

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peggy Smith. I am a retired Registered Dietitian, and currently a Licensed Massage Therapist, an organic gardener, seed saver, farmers market shopper, and yes, a foodie! We live out in the country, on about 4 acres surrounded by small family farms in Jackson County. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2882**.

HB 2882 creates patent holder or manufacturer liability for genetically engineered (GE) contamination events in Oregon. Over the past decade, GE contamination events, and threats of contamination, have cost US farmers **billions** of dollars—including Oregon farmers—in rejected sales, lost exports, and closed agricultural markets, not to mention the loss of many small family farms who couldn't afford being sued by patent holders.

Farmers lack protections from GE contamination because Oregon doesn't regulate GE crops. Further, with the exception of our Jackson County, all other counties in Oregon are preempted from making decisions regarding seed cultivation in their jurisdictions, denying them the right to protect their neighbors and family farmers.

While I ultimately want to see patent holders and manufacturers held responsible for GE pollen drift contamination so farmers aren't pitted against farmers, I strongly support legislation that calls for the regulation of GE crops in Oregon. All traditional farmers should have the right to be protected from having to turn their crop(s) under and/or be sued by the patent holder...which in my mind is unbelievably crazy!

Addressing GE contamination is important to me because I believe the future of farming and the security of our food supply is small, local family or community farms, rather than the currently mainstream large "monocrop" agriculture system. We love our farmers! It's time to protect small, traditional farms and their families.

Please vote HB 2882 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your service.

Sincerely,  
Peggy A. Smith  
Medford, OR 97504