Dear Chair Holvey,

Please oppose HB 2882 and the -1 amendment which creates new liability for farmers who grow GE crops. Co-existence works for Oregon growers! There are all kinds of markets for all types of agriculture in Oregon. Organic, conventional and GE. The -1 amendment elevates all other types of agriculture above GE.

GE crops pose no unique risk to neighboring crops as long as the grower takes proper precautions as required under USDA rules, they are under no risk of losing their organic certification. In fact no organic grower has lost their organic certification due to unintended presence of genetically engineered material.

Genetically engineered is a key breeding technique for creating new crops varieties but the liability of HB 2882 would greatly discourage adoption of this innovation. Certain varieties of crops may longer be available to farmers in this state limiting choices for Oregon growers. The use of this technology has allowed growers to reduce the use of many chemicals to protect and grow their crops, which is a win for Oregon as a whole.

HB 2882 discourages the use of GE crops at a time Oregon is looking at reducing state greenhouse emissions.

Biotechnology has contributed greatly to the reduction of greenhouse gases on the landscape. We shouldn't discourage these practices.

Oregon agriculture is incredibly diverse and coexistence is key! Oregon farmers have worked with neighbors for over 100 years to manage coexistence conflicts. This bill flies in the face of that work by picking" winners" and "losers" among farmers.

Please support Oregon farmers and vote no on HB 2882 and the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

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