

HB 3212 was proposed by Rep. Brian Clem, and is not only targetted at GMOs, but undermines the ability of every county and city to adopt any law, like Jackson County's ban on GMOs, that protects family farmers from damaging agricultural practices.

HB 3212 would define any county, city or state law addressing farming practices as a "land use regulation" and would require local governments to either pay "compensation" for a landowner's claimed reduction in their property value OR waive the law entirely. That's right - under HB 3212 Jackson County could be allowed to waive the GMO ban if individual GMO growers claimed the ban had reduced the value of their property or face potentially millions of dollars in compensation claims.

HB 3212 is a major expansion of Measure 49's "compensation" rules proposed by Rep. Brian Clem and goes way beyond what Oregonians ever intended. The proposed law would undermine the ability of counties like ours to adopt laws that protect family farmers growing traditional or organic crops from the impacts of industrial agricultural practices, such as GMOs. With the recent development and approval of GMO crops designed for heavy spraying with 2,4-D (the major ingredient in Agent Orange), it is more important than ever that local communities preserve our ability to protect family farmers from practices that put family farmers at risk.

But HB 3212 requires county taxpayers to pay "compensation" to any farm landowner that says a local or state law has decreased their property values OR waive the law. This of course is the real goal behind HB 3212.

What types of laws could be affected?

- Potential limits on pesticide drift from aerial spraying of toxic chemicals to protect sensitive agricultural crops, such as vineyards or organically grown crops, as well as water supplies, schools or neighborhoods
- Local laws protecting family farmers from contamination by genetically engineered crops, such as Jackson County's citizen supported 2014 GMO-ban
- Animal welfare laws, such as Oregon's new rules setting minimum space requirements for chickens
- Laws protecting water quality and salmon, such as minimal riparian setbacks
- Water conservation restrictions targeting wasteful water practices that leave other farmers without adequate water supplies

Please stop this bill!

Rhonda Rogalski