

Dear Channa Newell,

Oregon is a state that wants to lead the way in climate change and conventional agriculture is one of the biggest enemies of just that. It's usually blamed on drilling for gas but in addition to that agricultural practices get overlooked and the bad ones get continued while we progress our environmental health in other ways. This is counteractive because we are still allowing for the soil to not be rejuvenated, water conservation not to be followed, acid rain, animal cruelty, and organic farmers finding themselves never at peace. Oregonians want the opposite of all of that and even actually feel like we're doing our part to be better on agriculture. We want sustainability and want organic to not be just the other choice but the standard for all that represents Oregon. All of these bills are a step in the right direction. Please support them all. I hope that tomorrow HB 2739 passes. I live in Portland and have met many organic farmers and for me their way of farming is my lifestyle choice. I find that many people would rather the small family farmer come first the way I believe they should and it's baffles our minds that our current legislation does not uphold our values. These bills will help us align us better with our environmental goals. I hope that we make even more strides in the future. Please represent Oregonians well and support all of these.

SB 197 to regulate air contaminant emissions from dairy operations which would rectify not yet following recommendations of the Oregon's Dairy Air Quality Task force in 2008. Basically, ignoring the problem of ammonia in the air.

HB 2038 maintains current funding levels of Oregon's Farm to school program state wide. Organizations such as Supa Fresh in Tigard producing for their own schools would be amazing. Organic and small farmers should definitely be the only ones allowed to be a part of this program. It's a way to help both the student eat healthy and for these true small farms and organizations such as Supa Fresh dedicated to best practices stay alive in Oregon.

HB 2085 Beginner farm tax credit to encourage landowners to lease land to those interested in farming. With the most tax credits going to organic and/ or transitioning to organic certified land.

HB 2469 allowing for local regulations of genetically engineered crops to protect farmers whose crops may be at risk of contamination due to lack of state oversight.

On that note, please vote yes on HB 2739 allowing farmers who discover unwanted genetically engineered material on their land to seek damages from patent-holders of those crops. Again, this supports the small farmer who gets little to no help except from the consumer.

I believe in what we can do in Oregon to become fully sustainable and I believe you want that as well.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Mel Scott