

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Please OPPOSE HB 2739

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Charles Boyer and I live at 11630 Agate Road, Eagle Point, Oregon 97524. My telephone is [541-826-9873](tel:541-826-9873). My wife and I are family farmers in Jackson County and have lived on and worked our farm since 1991. I currently live in the only county in Oregon where it is illegal to grow crops that are legal under Federal Law but legal to grow crops that are illegal to grow under Federal Law. I am asking you to not let this happen in other counties across the State.

This bill is a front by a small group of radical farmers and duped urban dwellers to stop the agricultural community as a whole from getting access to and using new approved technologies to improve our production and increase our economic well being. If you will take the time to research this topic thoroughly you will find that the fears of large corporation suing individual farms that have had patented GM plants in their fields have been when the farmer violated his or her contract with the patent holder and either sold or replanted the patented seed. As for the possibility of USDA approved GM plants getting into someones field is rare. And yes I am aware of the creeping bentgrass issue in eastern Oregon and western Idaho. But bentgrass is not one of the approved 10 plants for use in the U.S.

This bill as written is a ploy to attach the corporate companies involved directly or indirectly in agriculture.

If you are not aware of some of the positive things GM crops have done look into the story behind Golden Rice. Golden Rice was developed at a university and made available for planting in countries where rice makes up a large share of children's diets. The local populations were told by those folks against GM plants that Golden Rice was a bad thing. A large anti GM campaign was waged around the world in many third world nations. The impact was many countries and farmers refused to plant Golden Rice. The difference between Golden Rice and white rice is Golden Rice has vitamin A in it and could help keep between 300,000 and 500,00 children a year from going blind. The cost of the privilege to use Golden Rice is the cost of the seed which is about the same as that of white rice.

You will hear all sorts of stories like how the young farmers in India are committing suicide because of the cost of GM cotton and how they cannot pay the prices so they kill themselves. Actually the suicide rate for Indian Farmers is lower than for urban dwellers. The suicide rates for both groups has been going up for some time. However the trend started several years before GM cotton was introduced into India and farmers there could grow it.

So please do not pass this bill and allow uninformed urban folks to be duped by the hysteria of a few loud anti GM crop people and place similar restrictions on agriculture across the State of Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie

Charles L. Boyer