

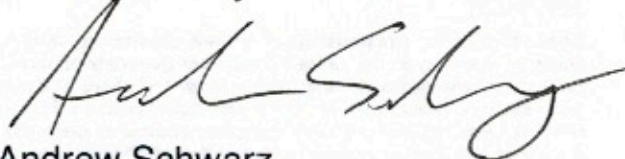
March 15, 2017

Submitted as testimony in support of HB 2739 for hearing on March 16, 2017 in front of House Committee on Judiciary. My name is Andrew Schwarz and I am the farmer/owner of Ridgeline Meadows Farm in the Applegate Valley of Southern Oregon. I support this bill wholeheartedly. A brief summary of our reasons follow.

My farm is certified organic so I can produce Organic seeds which command premium prices. In order to produce Organic seed, the seed crop must be isolated from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) which can contaminate the seed of the same species. Contaminated seed cannot be sold by Organic farmers or even conventional farmers if they do not have a license from the owner of the GMO patent.

HB2739 allows victims of genetic trespassing to recover damages from the owner of the property (GMO) if there should be damage to a seed crop. This is similar to being able to recover damage if someone should maintain a dangerous animal, say a Cape Buffalo (as an example only), on an inadequately fenced pasture and that animal should trespass on a neighbor's property and harm the neighbor or his/her property. I feel that the owner of a property should be responsible for the damage done by their property to others. The victim of the damage should not have to bear the cost or burden of a neighbor's actions. This bill would encourage neighbors to be responsible and work together to ensure that what one does is not harmful to the other.

Thank you for your consideration.



Andrew Schwarz
Ridgeline Meadows Farm
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