

To: Members of the Oregon State Legislature and other concerned Citizens

From: Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association (SOSGA)

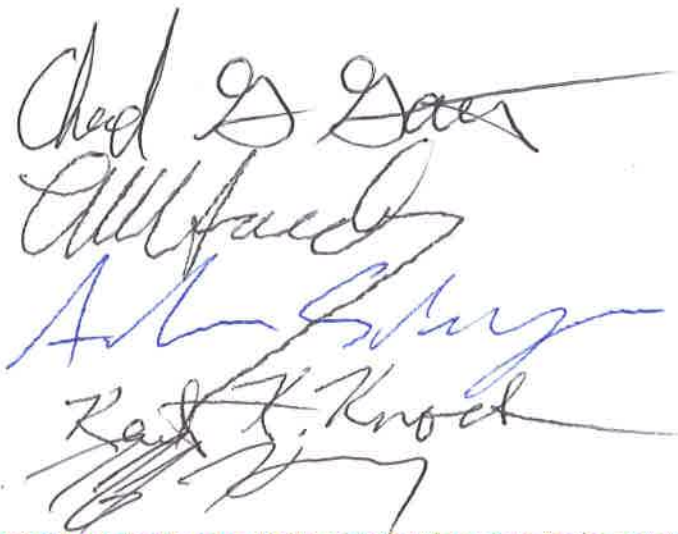
This letter is in support of the bill HB2739 in the 2017 Oregon Legislative session . We are the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association a.k.a. "SOSGA". We support this bill wholeheartedly. A brief summary of our reasons follow. Written and aural testimony will also be presented by SOSGA and some of it's members.

SOSGA is an organization of, by and for local farmers in Southern Oregon, currently concentrated in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Our purpose is to support our local farmers in the production of seed crops. Many of our farmers are certified Organic so they 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. We 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. SOSGA and some of it's members will present additional testimony.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signatures of our Board Members:



Handwritten signatures of board members, including Chad D. Davis, Cliff Jacobs, Alan Smith, and Keith J. Knobel.