



9950 Bethel Rd. Amity, OR 97101  
Office: 503-835-6445 / Fax: 503-835-1892

---

May 23, 2017

Chair Williamson and members of the Committee

My name is Anna Scharf and I am a farmer and family business owner in Polk County, Oregon. My family owns and operates about 2,500 acres west of Salem growing 10 different crops including GE and traditional, and we provide seed cleaning and warehouse services to five other family owned farms and ten Oregon seed companies. I am urging you to vote NO on HB2739.

For several years now we have been growing GE Silage corn for a local dairy. It is a great partnership and allows us to farm on ground that frankly is not good for much else due to poor soil, slope and lack of irrigation. However, the GE silage corn provides high quality feed to the dairy, and income to us and the person that we rent the ground from who is on a fixed retirement income. Due to the success of the crop on marginal ground, we are now planting it on ground where we might consider other crops because it is a great rotation and allows us to "clean up" fields from weeds and grasses that other rotational crops will not.

If this bill passes, seed companies may consider eliminating GE seed sales to Oregon. This would take another tool out of our toolbox. We use this GE crops as a tool. It is a tool that limits the needs for pesticides, has low labor input costs, and requires less fuel producing fewer emissions. This session my tool box has been under constant attack by the legislature. I have been fighting to maintain the ability to responsibly use pesticides, fighting to mitigate mandated labor cost increases, and fighting to demonstrate that farmers mitigate more emissions than they create

Farmers are THE best stewards of the land. We grow traditional and GE crops for many reasons, but it all boils down to wanting to take care of our land; sustainable farming. GE seed technology just like better pesticides, more efficient tractors and watering systems, etc. all make being the best stewards of the land possible.

Please vote NO on HB2739 and leave the farming decisions to the farmers.

Thank you for your time.

Anna Scharf  
Scharf Farms Inc.  
Perrydale, OR.