

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

3/16/2017

RESOLUTION 2017.9

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to GMO contamination of agricultural products

WHEREAS, the agricultural communities in Jackson and Josephine Counties have been concerned for a number of years that the growing of genetically engineered crops in their counties could contaminate their organic and conventionally grown crops and cause severe financial harm; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County agricultural community was able to get a measure on the 2014 ballot banning genetically engineered crops that won by nearly a 2 to 1 margin, and a similar measure in Josephine County won with a 16% margin; and

WHEREAS, a special session of the legislature in 2013 passed a measure preempting a county ban on genetically engineered crops after a similar measure was rejected in the regular session, though the ban allowed the Jackson County measure to move forward since it had already qualified for the 2014 ballot; and

WHEREAS, during the special session in which the preemption was enacted, then-Gov. John Kitzhaber promised a state-level solution to the problem of GE crops contaminating conventional and organic crops. A state task force spent six months and \$125,000 studying the issue, but finished its work in November 2014 with no recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Food Safety, Friends of Family Farmers, Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families, Cultivate Oregon and Our Family Farms argue that local governments should be allowed to protect family farmers with laws that are specific to the local conditions where they farm; and

WHEREAS, HB 2469, introduced by Rep. Paul Holvey and Rep. John Lively, would allow *“local government to inhibit or prevent production or use of seed or seed products for purpose of protecting seed or products that are not genetically engineered from adverse impacts of genetically engineered seed or products”*; and

WHEREAS, HB 2739, introduced by Rep. Phil Barnhart, allows a landowner to sue the patent holder if a genetically engineered organism is present on their land without permission and leads to economic damage;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. To support HB 2469, which overturns the ban on local control of the production of or products of agricultural seed, flower seed, nursery seed or vegetable seed.

SECTION 2. To support HB 2739, which enables an economic remedy to damage caused by contamination by

SECTION 3. To contact the chair of the [House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) regarding our support of HB 2469, the chair of the [House Committee On Judiciary](#) regarding our support of HB 2739, and to contact our Lane County legislators as appropriate.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, March 16, 2017**

Signed:

X _____ . X _____ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary