



WestBred, LLC

"Improving nature's grains"

Date 2-4-05
Bill No. SB 218

February 4, 2005

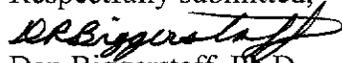
Chairman Wheat and Members of the Committee:

For the record, WestBred, LLC, a private, Montana based, plant breeding company, recommends that you do not give committee approval to SB 218 for the following reasons:

We view this proposed act as unnecessary and burdensome for Montana agribusinesses. It does not improve or promote either the wheat seed or grain business for Montana seedsmen or grain growers. As proposed, this act does nothing to protect Montana's wheat industry that is not already being done by our three Federal regulatory agencies [USDA, APHIS; EPA; and the FDA] and the agricultural biotechnology industry.

Why does this proposed act apply only to "genetically engineered" wheat? Montana growers are using "genetically engineered" corn, soybeans, and canola? We have heard previous testimony on this distinction, but it is not supported by peer-reviewed scientific studies. This type of legislation will hamper numerous existing biotechnology research projects, as well as future initiatives.

Unfortunately, this legislation will potentially deny Montana's wheat growers access to market-leading varieties in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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