



March 16, 2009

Dear Senate Agriculture Committee:

My name is Helen Waller and I'm a farmer from McCone County. I'm writing in support of HB 445 on behalf of myself and the members of Northern Plains Resource Council.

Montana farmers and ranchers pride themselves on independence, honesty and trust. I support HB 445 because it provides a legal framework for patent holders to follow when investigating farmers and other landowners for possible patent infringement. It's certainly reasonable to enact a protocol for these investigations that ensures that farmers and ranchers are engaged in these investigations from day one and have the opportunity to request the presence of a third party, as well as to take duplicate samples.

Patent holders have the right to protect their patents, but not in a manner that steps on the privacy and property rights of farmers.

I hope the committee can see that this bill supports farmers of all sizes and conventions and is far from an anti-biotechnology or anti-patent bill. I believe this bill honors the rights of patent holders while also protecting and respecting the rights of our farmers and landowners. Please support HB 445.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Helen Waller
Circle, Montana