

GMO mediation bill finds opposition

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — After an uncontroversial start, legislation that would require mediation for disputes over biotech crops in Oregon is now facing opposition from critics of genetic engineering.

House Bill 2509, which would direct the Oregon Department of Agriculture to mediate conflicts over genetically modified organisms, didn't initially meet with objections and passed the House by an overwhelming margin.

The bill arose from a work group convened by Rep. Brian Clem, D-Salem, that evaluated a range of GMO proposals.

During a May 20 legislative hearing, Clem said he's surprised by the recent surge of antagonism toward HB 2509, which emerged from the concerns of GMO critics who worried that biotech farmers wouldn't agree to mediation.

"This came from the anti-GMO community," he said. "This was designed to be helpful for people worried about being interfered with by GMOs."

Friends of Family Farmers, a group that favors stronger GMO regulation, participated in the work group negotiations and credited the bill with providing an incentive for mediation

during a work session last month.

Now that HB 2509 is before the Senate, however, the nonprofit group and other GMO critics are asking lawmakers to reject the proposal because they say farmers who are harmed by biotech cross-pollination should not be forced into mediation.

"It strikes us that mediation should be a choice farmers make, not a mandated situation," said Ivan Maluski, policy director of Friends of Family Farmers, during the recent hearing before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

If a dispute over genetically engineered crops occurs between farmers, the bill calls for ODA to provide mediation to seek a coexistence solution. If a grower refuses mediation and later loses a lawsuit in the dispute, they'd be required to pay the opposing party's legal costs.

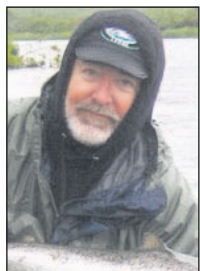
While Friends of Family Farmers believes mediation may be useful in some circumstances, the group has decided to oppose the bill because mandatory mediation could impose a financial burden on small growers.

The mediation requirement may delay a timely court decision when a farmer faces market rejection of his crop due to cross-pollination, the group claims.

Controversial ODFW appointees approved

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Senate voted Thursday to confirm two controversial appointees to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.



Buckmaster

The sport fishing industry and some recreational anglers lobbied hard to stop Gov. Kate Brown's appointment of Astoria resident Bruce Buckmaster to the commission because of his work on behalf of the commercial fishing industry, but the Senate voted 18-12 to confirm Buckmaster. The Senate also voted 27-3 to confirm Jason Atkinson of Jacksonville to the commission. Senators voted unanimously to confirm 92 other appointments by the governor to various boards and commissions.

During a committee hearing earlier this week, sport fishers said they want the governor to appoint a commissioner who works in their industry. It is unclear how Brown might respond to that request, but the Senate Committee on Rules held back the governor's two reappointments to the commission — Holly Akenson of Enterprise, and Michael Finley of Medford — because senators said they were concerned commissioners did not do enough to prevent budget problems at

the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The seven fish and wildlife commissioners serve four-year terms and are appointed to represent the state's Congressional districts. Brown appointed Buckmaster to fill the position representing Oregon's 1st Congressional District, after former Gov. John Kitzhaber left that position vacant for more than two years.

Buckmaster previously owned a salmon feed company and served on the board of Salmon for All, a group that represents commercial fishermen, processors and other businesses on the Lower Columbia River. Buckmaster also registered as a lobbyist while serving on the board of Salmon for All and although Buckmaster said he was never paid for the work, sport fishers said this should preclude him from serving as a commissioner.

19 long-dead Oregon hospital patients get military honors

By **GOSIA WOZNIACKA**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — They served in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War and World War I — but for decades, their ashes and those of thousands of others lay abandoned in corroded urns in an outbuilding at Oregon's state psychiatric hospital.

The Oregon National Guard on Friday offered a rifle salute and played "Taps" at Willamette National Cemetery to honor 19 veterans and the spouses of two others who were patients at the now 132-year-old hospital and died there.

Their cremated remains were discovered a decade ago, along with those of about 3,500 other people.

Dubbed the "forgotten souls," they became a symbol of the state's dark history of treating the mentally ill at Oregon State Hospital, where "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was filmed.

"We are finally laying to rest the veterans and spouses whom time and society had forgotten," hospital superintendent Greg Roberts said at the ceremony.

The military honors are part of an effort to pay respect to those who died, to reunite their remains with surviving relatives and to honor those eligible with a veteran burial.

Lawmakers discovered the urns by chance while on a tour of the dilapidated hospital in 2004. Senate State President Peter Courtney, who found the canisters, said he did not want these people to be forgotten.

Thus far, the hospital has identified about 90 eligible veterans among the remains. It handed four of the urns to the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs three years ago, and they were interred. Since then, the state identified an additional 88 remains eligible for a burial with military honors.

Between 1914 and 1971, more than 5,000 people were cremated at the hospital. They were born in different states and countries. Most were patients at the state psychiatric hospital, while others died at other institutions.

Courtney and other lawmakers pushed to fund a respectful way to honor the remains and to replace the existing psychiatric hospital.

Using records and genealogy research, the hospital identified most of the dead and four years ago published their names in an online database.



The Oregon National Guard on Friday offered a rifle salute and played "Taps" at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland to honor 19 veterans and the spouses of two others whose cremated remains were discovered at the Oregon State Hospital a decade ago.



The urns that contain the cremated remains of 19 veterans at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

The hospital has matched 302 urns with families. A total of 3,348 still have not been claimed.

Last summer, the hospital unveiled a memorial on its grounds to honor the unclaimed remains.

Those who served the country would be honored and buried like other veterans.

At the cemetery, Mike Allegre of the state's Department of Veterans' Affairs read the roll call of names. Four had served in the Civil War, six in the Spanish American War, six in the Indian Wars and two in World War I.

A bagpiper played "Amazing Grace." The National Guard twice fired their rifles in the still, gray morning.

No eulogies were given; the men's records are sparse. Some had a mental illness or were dealing with post-war traumas, while others were admitted to receive better medical care.

Arthur B. Hunter was a private in an Indiana infantry regiment that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Hunter was born in Kansas in 1877. He never married, and died in

1931 at age 54. John Q. Howard served in the Spanish American War and is listed as a cook in Company C in the 2nd Regiment Muster in Eugene in 1898. He was born in Iowa in 1859, and died in Oregon in 1926 at 67.

John Wilson Sevedge was a farmer and a private in Company A, 1st Brigade of the Oregon Militia. Records indicate he fought in the Modoc Indian War in the early 1870s. Sevedge was born in Illinois 1858, and died in 1935.

Curtis Lufate Oaks is a veteran of World War I. Documents note he served in the U.S. Army in 1917 and was honorably discharged in May 1919. According to his file, he had a scar from a gunshot wound received during the war. Oaks, who was born in Tennessee in 1895, never married and died in Oregon in 1955 at age 60.

The urns with the remains of those four men, along with 17 others, will be interred in a memorial wall at the cemetery. The remains of 70 other veterans will be interred at a future date.



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<p>James Thomas Bradshaw Jul. 29, 1938 Oct. 17, 2008</p> <p>I still miss you so much and love you! Juanita Bradshaw</p>	<p>Donald Mitchell Briscoe May 1, 1926 May 28, 2014</p> <p>Our Hero from the Greatest Generation. We love and miss you! Carol, Clay, Debbie & kids</p>	<p>Donald Everett Hulick Sep. 25, 1950 Feb. 17, 2015</p> <p>We miss you so much! You are forever in our Hearts! Love you, Vivian, Chantz, Shad, Amber, Charee & Kaden</p>
<p>2Lt Frederick P. Lopez Dec. 4, 1922 Apr. 26, 1945</p> <p><i>Buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery in Saint Avold, France. First family visit by his younger brother Daniel on April 26, 2015.</i></p>	<p>Lance Marten Jones Mar. 8, 1967 Mar. 29, 2007</p> <p>Miss you so much! Mom, Dad & Tim</p>	