

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 5/19/24

Name: Beth Bridgeman

Are you representing: Yourself ☒ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): 364

Specific Issue: seed libraries

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☒

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? n/a written testimony onl

Please provide a brief statement on your position: As a professor of sustainable practice at Antioch College, have been teaching seed-saving and seed sovereignty in Ohio and nationally since 2014, I trained under Bill McDorman formerly of the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance, and Native Seed Search. I have reached out to Chris Holton at ODA to encourage Ohio to codify the RUSSL amendment to the American Association of Seed Control Officials. Currently, Ohio models the RUSSL amendment, which has been adopted by more than eight other states, but we do not yet have it codified in the Ohio Revised Code. With your wonderful bill up for consideration, now is the opportunity to do that. While many aspects of this bill lean toward similar language of the RUSSL amendment, some of it does not go far enough, and some of it goes too far. I suggest simply adapting the RUSSL amendment, incorporating it within this bill, and codifying it in the ORC. https://www.seedcontrol.org/pdf/russl_2022.pdf Importantly, HB364 would eliminate label for seed packets in seed libraries. Labeling is critical. Also, take away the word membership

as most seed libraries are visiting by the public, not through a membership. Finally, allow for hybrid seed (in addition to open-pollinated) at seed libraries. These can still be saved and converted back to open-pollination within eight growing cycles. Thank you.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.