

March 18, 2013

Dear Chairman Whit and honorable committee members,

As a Southern Oregon serious gardener, I depend on the quality seeds that come from the Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Producers. Those high quality and pure seeds are under threat from the reckless behavior coming from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). The Willamette Valley is known world-wide as a rare seed producing region deliberately put at risk by careless ODA directives insisting on the planting canola where it has the potential to do known and unknown damage.

What the ODA should be doing is protecting the Willamette Specialty Seed Industry for its unquestionable economic engine that it is in Oregon. Instead, the ODA seems bent in undermining all the years of good seed management by introducing canola, better known as rape seed, *a damn weed*. Once that weed shows up in a brassica field, you're in big trouble. Things will only get worse and if you are the pride and joy of seed farming in the Willamette Valley, then that valuable part of Oregon's economy is in trouble and perhaps lost.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is out of touch with the seed farmers of the Willamette Valley. It's time to reign them in from their careless rule-making authority. Canola can be grown elsewhere where its potential to damage won't matter.

Don't let the ODA damage a shining jewel known as the Willamette Valley.

Please support HB 2427. The Willamette Valley needs protections from this mischievous, insidious weed we know as canola.

Respectfully,

Michael Framson
Medford, OR