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To: Rep Brad Witt <[RepBradWitt@state.or.us](mailto:RepBradWitt@state.or.us)>, Co: ted@universalseed.com  
House Bill 2427

March 18, 2013 11:09 PM

Dear Chairman Witt,

I would like to formally express my support for House Bill 2427 and have this submitted as official testimony.

The Willamette Valley has risen to a premier growing region for vegetable seed crops and is known for its climate, infrastructure, university support and skilled farming community made up of both growers and agronomy support. It is a resource that is absolutely worth preserving not just for the interested parties locally but also for the world. My farm produces both red and white radish seed along with spinach seed. More often than not, the seed I produce is exported to countries around the world for food production.

The protection from canola production in the Willamette Valley also played a large part to make Oregon a premier seed producer. I feel it is safe to say that Oregon and particularly the Willamette Valley would not have been able to enjoy the growth and the economic benefit (over 100 million dollars) of an expanded specialty seed industry without regulated canola production. The Oregon Department of Agriculture found it necessary to maintain strong rules to prevent the harmful impact of canola production and to change that now without the benefit of new research and funding to monitor and mitigate the negative impact is very short sided.

Canola can be and is grown across much of Oregon but is not appropriate for the Willamette Valley due to the threat of cross-pollination, crop pests, diseases and herbicide resistance.

Katy Coba herself stated on February 14 to a Senate Committee that "its fair to say in other parts of the world specialty seed industries have been destroyed by large amounts of canola and there is a level of canola production where where you do jeopardize specialty seeds but we just don't know what that acreage is." if canola is a direct threat at some unknown level to specialty seed production then is it prudent to risk it?

The Oregon Department of Agriculture and its director Katy Coba acknowledge that canola production can threaten the specialty seed industry then why would any level of production be allowed. Is it smart to forfeit some acres in the Willamette Valley to canola production when a large amount of acres are available for canola production east of the Cascade Mt. Range? If its not viable for the whole Willamette Valley, then how can it be for part of it?

Sincerely,

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