

Dear Ms. Patrino:

Organic Seed Alliance is a national organization that engages in plant breeding projects and seed education in the Pacific Northwest, including in partnership with a number of Oregon farms located in the Willamette Valley. We are writing in support of HB 2427.

Canola exclusion zones were established as a result of community discussions and research, and ultimately honored known risks identified by members of the commercial seed sector who understood the potential impacts, including economic risks spanning the region and the broader international seed community. Because the risks are well documented – canola easily cross-pollinates with Brassica relatives – we strongly support HB 2427 to ban canola production in the Willamette Valley.

As you may know, the valley is one of the most appropriate and valuable areas in the world for producing specialty seed, including Brassicas. The national and international seed industries are invested in this region, and rely on the responsible management of plant genetics in seed production areas to ensure the integrity of their products. Farmers also rely on the genetic integrity of seed produced in this region to meet the demand of their customers, not to mention their agronomic and regulatory needs, especially those falling under the National Organic Program.

Thank you for protecting the Willamette Valley's specialty seed industry by voting YES on HB 2427.

Sincerely,

Kristina Hubbard  
Director of Advocacy & Communications  
Organic Seed Alliance

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