Testimony of Clint Lindsey on HB 2427 before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
March 19, 2013

In 2005 our family's farm, A2R, applied for an exemption permit to grow canola in the Willamette Valley near Corvallis. We wanted to crush the seed on-farm for our own biofuel production. Although we met or exceeded all the requirements for the permit the ODA denied our request on the grounds that allowing any commercial cultivation of canola was simply too big a risk to the multi-million specialty seed industry. They ODA-OSU Oilseed Study was then commissioned, and our farm participated as a test farm. We began hearing from neighboring farmers, local seed companies, and others who all expressed alarm about commercial-scale cultivation of canola and asked us to rethink our decision. We were putting other growers at risk of contamination and loss of income. We were possibly allowing a genetically altered plant into an environment where it would get out, spread, and contaminate other growers, and be very difficult to eradicate.

We regret our decision to push for commercial-scale cultivation of canola in the Willamette Valley. We recognized then that there are alternative oilseed crops such as flax and camelina that are viable alternatives to canola. These alternatives do not harm other growers.

Many other areas of the world depend on pure Willamette Valley seed for their needs. Why would we risk the health of a large, healthy, and critical food industry that brings tens of millions of dollars to Oregon each year to serve the needs of a small group, particularly when canola can be grown in many other parts of Oregon *without threatening other seed industries*.

We ask that the committee restore the protection of the specialty seed industry and restrict canola cultivation in the Willamette Valley. The risks are too great, and the potential benefits too small.

Thank you,

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