

MEASURE: HB 2427
EXHIBIT: 78
H AG & NAT RESOURCES
DATE: 3-19-13 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: Nick Tichinin

Date: 3/19/2013

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee

Chair- Brad Witt
Vice Chair- Sal Esquivel
Vice Chair- Caddy McKeown
Rep. - Brian Clem
Rep. - Wayne Krieger
Rep. - Jeff Reardon
Rep. - Jim Thompson
Rep. - Ben Unger
Rep. - Gail Whitsett

From: Nick Tichinin

Vice President WVSSA
Owner Universal Seed Company. Independence, Oregon

My name is Nick Tichinin. I am the owner and founder of Universal Seed Company, a vegetable seed production company established in 1989, and located in Independence Oregon. I am also a farmer (hazelnuts, vegetable seed, grass seed) and a Farm Bureau member. I have a degree in Agronomy and 35 years experience in vegetable seed production on a worldwide basis. After 10 years traveling the world as production manager for a major international seed company I chose to establish my company in the Willamette Valley. I did this based on the unique agronomic attributes of climate, available land base, water, and grower sophistication. Those conditions are what continue to make the Willamette Valley a premier seed production area in the world today.

Universal Seed Company is a wholesale producer of high value vegetable seed. We contract with farmers throughout the valley to grow seed crops under our supervision. These crops are then processed into the final product and shipped to our customers worldwide from our facility in Independence.

You have already heard testimony today concerning the incompatibility of canola and seed crops generally, and brassica seed crops particularly. You have also heard testimony from one of my Japanese customers concerning their extreme concern about the future of seed production here. I really have nothing to add to the testimony already presented.

I would simply like to point out that the continued uncertainty, and changeability, of the administrative rule is already having a negative impact on the current, but particularly future, vegetable seed business in the valley. The fact that my customers feel compelled to write letters, or fly in to testify in support of protective legislation is not good. This only causes them to begin planning alternative strategies and seeking new production areas. Any customer, in any business, who feels that their supply chain is at risk will begin strategic planning to seek a new secure supply.

For the sake of all the seed growers in the Willamette Valley I urge you to pass HB 2427.

Sincerely,
Nick Tichinin