

Dear: Mr. Chairman, and Committee members

My name is Mike Vandehey of North Valley Farms in Banks, Oregon. My story is different from all the others,
I have been raising Canola for the last four years on the northern most edge of the protected district.

Four years ago like many farmers I was looking for a good alternate crop to raise, my typical rotation would have been
Crimson Clover. Clover price was only \$0.35 per pound to the grower, and I would pay for cleaning bags and pallets at that
price. An average yield would have left me with red ink.

I discovered Willamette Biomass Processors and met with Tomas Endicott. the current boundary had not been made final,
however after an E-mail to the ODA I found out that it was just a matter of a few weeks. I got on the Internet and phone,
I learned as much as I could about Canola in just a few weeks. I went to WSU campus in Puyallup Washington, and spoke
with Tim Miller, about his Certified Organic Canola trials in western Washington, I also spoke with Don Wysocki OSU Extension
Pendleton Oregon, as well as travelled to OSU research farm at Hyslop. I discovered that this crop was not any of the things I
had heard about.

I planted Canola over a three year period with over 700 acres. I have followed the crop with
Wheat, crimson clover, red clover,
hairy vetch, and have used it as a nurse crop to establish grass. I have had no
problem controlling Canola in all of the earlier
mentioned crops.

Spring of 2012 the Oregon Clover Commission had raised concern about Canola, I invited all the
members and Commissioners
to a crimson clover field that was Canola two years prior. The Commission sent a notice to its
Commissioners that they would not
be allowed to attend. I believe the reason was that they would have discovered that Canola is not
a problem.

I did not use any special chemicals to control Canola, just standard labeled chemicals work
flawless, If I had a problem with my
Canola production you would have had pictures in front of you already. Having Canola in the
Willamette Valley creates a lot of
interest both good and bad.

I have planted all non GMO seed stock from Germany, many different high yielding varieties some as high as 4,000lbs./acre.

My average yield is around, 3,500 lbs. My gross profit was between \$700-\$1,000 and I have never received any subsidy.

I was paid in 30 days with no dockage, and no cleaning bill. This was grown on vary steep non irrigated ground.

It has been my observation that the seed is gone by the third year out of production. I have not noticed seed in the borders

or ditches. It was also the observation of a WSU undergraduate that birds fully digest the seed because it is soft, however I

am waiting for that to be published. I have not observed any seed spread from birds.

I have heard that Canola is like a Genie in a bottle, my concern is legislation that makes a commodity crop illegal to grow.

I believe this committee is holding the bottle, passing this bill is rubbing the bottle! This bill would establish a new precedent.

What keeps special interest groups from trying to make crops illegal in the name of keeping cost low, or too further an agenda?

Many countries tell farmers what they can and cant grow, the difference is they are not The United States!

thank you

Michael Vandehey