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**Testimony Before the Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Committee on House Bill 2427A  
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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Dear Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee:

**Oregon Environmental Council supports the passage and funding of House Bill 2427A.**

As a conservation organization with a long history working in support of renewable fuels as well as the protection of Oregon's farmland, clean water, fish and wildlife, we are concerned about the Oregon Department of Agriculture's recent reversal of long-standing policies that protect specialty seed and fresh market vegetable producers from the significant risks associated with planting canola in the Willamette Valley. Given the substantial risks related to growing canola in the Willamette Valley, we urge your leadership in passing and providing the needed funding for House Bill 2427A.

As you know, the Willamette Valley is one of the top vegetable seed producing regions in the world, known internationally for the purity and quality of the seed produced here. Vegetable seed grown in the valley is sold locally, nationally and internationally to home gardeners and farmers alike. The Valley is also home to a large network of diverse fresh vegetable producers, who provide local, healthy food to grocery stores, schools, food processors, restaurants, produce stands, and farmers markets across the region. In recent decades, the organic sector of the seed and vegetable industries has also become big business in the Willamette Valley. This sector brings tens of millions of dollars to Oregon farmers annually, while it connects consumers to healthy, local food and protects the environment.

The risks from canola to the Willamette Valley's world-class specialty seed and vegetable growers and organic industry through cross-pollination, pests and plant diseases must be better understood before moving forward with allowing the expansion of canola production here. More in-depth study by OSU is needed to better understand how to minimize these risks to Willamette Valley farmers and seed producers, and protect the long-term viability of these agricultural industries, and our local food supply.

We support this important bill, and hope you will too.