



**Testimony before the Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Respectfully Submitted by Jana Bader Jarvis
On behalf of the Oregon Wheat Growers League
May 16, 2013**

Co-Chairs Unger and Edwards and Members of the Subcommittee:

RE: Opposition to HB 2427A

The Oregon Wheat Growers League, a nonprofit trade association of over 1400 producers, does not support a legislative response to the administrative rule promulgated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) addressing the growing of canola in the Willamette Valley region of the state of Oregon.

As a broad-leaf, deep-rooted crop, canola provides a significant benefit as a rotation crop to wheat producers by helping to break the pest and disease cycles and reduces the need for herbicides and fungicides. Similar to wheat, it can be productively and economically grown in the non-irrigated fields that border the Willamette Valley where the ODA rule allows limited production. As no-till farming practices evolve, the ability to grow a rotation crop with the net value that canola provides becomes significantly more important.

Canola, as a member of the brassica family, has identical genetic characteristics to other allowed crops such as turnips and radishes. Cross-pollination concerns apply to other brassica crops as well, but growers utilize appropriate farming practices in their desire to grow these other brassica crops in the Willamette Valley. All broad-leaf crops can be controlled with chemicals and canola does not provide additional risks from other brassica crops.

The risks that canola opponents refer to are not unique to canola production. Appropriate farming practices that provide isolation regions, transportation practices in sealed containers to minimize seed scatter, as well as the limited production that would be allowed under the ODA rule will not threaten the specialty seed industry but will provide an economically viable option for wheat producers in the region. Co-existence is something that farmers have managed since the beginning of agriculture. It is not appropriate for the state of Oregon to pick winners and losers in agricultural production. Markets change quickly and legislative mandates that provide prohibitions could ultimately damage Oregon's agricultural industry by seeking a solution outside of the process currently in place.

OWGL asks that you not move HB 2427A forward and that you support Oregon agriculture by allowing ODA to continue providing an effective, responsive approach to issues such as this through their work in developing control districts as outlined in the map provided by ODA.