

from the desk of ~~JKL~~  
Rep. Sara Gelsner

Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association Encourages a YES vote on HB 2427B

**HB 2427B is supported by:**

Friends of Family Farmers  
Oregon Seed Association  
Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Albany Chamber of Commerce  
Oregon Fresh Market Growers Association

**Oregon has a world renowned seed industry and wide-scale canola production will put it in jeopardy.**

- Large scale canola production brings a significant amount of pest and disease risk as well as product impurities to Oregon's thriving seed industry.
- Asian and European markets have stressed to the Oregon Legislature that they have a significant amount of concern with canola being grown along side the specialty seed industry in the Willamette Valley.
- Oregon's foreign partners have noted that they will look at other locations in the world to purchase their seeds if canola is allowed in the Willamette Valley.

**HB 2427B carries forward upon a Department of Agriculture 2012 Emergency Board request for funding to study the impacts of canola on the Specialty Seed Industry. Study focus will include:**

- Disease and pest issues that are inherent in canola production.
- A review of published literature and other studies that focus on canola impacts.
- Field monitoring for weed volunteers in canola and neighboring fields is encouraged for up to five years.
- The Willamette Valley and whether or not this geographic region is suitable for canola growth.

**HB 2427B allows unlimited canola production outside of the Willamette Valley Control District, while protecting the specialty seed industry inside of the WVCD.**

- Within the protected district 500 acres of canola will be allowed annually for the purpose of studying canola impacts. This is far more acreage within the protected district than has been previously allowed
- Existing producers who currently grow canola outside protected district boundaries are still allowed to grow canola
- Acres will be permitted through ODA and OSU for study purposes.

The proposed research far exceeds previous experimental acreage within the boundaries of the protected district, which was last allowed in 2008. Any participant in previous research would be eligible to participate in additional research acreage authorized by HB 2427B

The Ways and Means Natural Resources Committee adopted the -15 amendment with a specific allocation for full funding for OSU's proposed canola research (\$679,000). If this bill does not pass this session, the new ODA 2013 policy will go into effect allowing 2,500 acres of canola within the Willamette Valley Protected District, putting the specialty seed industry at risk.

HB 2427B requires a 3-year study (500 acres per year) with a final report to the legislature due no later than November, 2017.