

From the desk of Rep. Mark Johnson

The logo for Oregon Wheat, featuring the word "OREGON" in a large, bold, sans-serif font above the word "WHEAT" in a similar font, with a wheat stalk icon integrated into the letter "O" of "WHEAT".

Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Wheat Growers League **Oppose HB 2427A**

What does HB 2427A do?

HB 2427A would place a moratorium on the growing of canola in the Willamette Valley. It allows 5 plots to be grown for the purpose of research, without a clear definition of the purpose or the price of the research. ODA's recent rulemaking at the conclusion of OSU conducted studies in 2007 and 2008 designated the core of the Willamette Valley as a "control district" which prohibited growing canola with the exception of 2500 acres on the fringe of the valley. ODA arrived at this rule through the results of the research and extensive discussions with stakeholders. If passed, HB 2427A would overrule the Oregon Department of Agriculture and create a precedence of the Legislature determining what crops could be grown in various regions of the state. **The Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Wheat Growers League believe that ODA is the proper venue for these decisions and that HB 2427A establishes a dangerous precedence.**

Why are we discussing canola?

As a member of the brassica family, canola has the same issues around cross-pollination that other members such as forage turnips and cover crop radish have which are unrestricted in the Willamette Valley. The specialty seed industry has concerns about the raising of canola, but farming practices that allow other brassicas to be grown there can be applied to the growing of canola. As a broad-leaf, deep-rooted crop, canola is a valuable rotation crop for grass seed and wheat producers in the non-irrigated portions of the Valley.

How should canola be addressed?

ODA is the appropriate agency to be establishing rules around the growing of canola. This is why the Legislature granted them authority to do so under ORS 570.450. ODA has access to the best science, stakeholder input and market conditions that allow for a thoughtful response to agricultural issues.

Support ODA's rulemaking authority on canola – OPPOSE HB 2427A

- ODA can bring stakeholders together to resolve conflicts in agriculture's best interest
- ODA has access to sound science at OSU
- ODA is flexible enough to change with global market demands
- Keeps the Legislature from telling what crops farmers can grow