

Subject: Testimony against HB 3382

To: Members of the Oregon Legislature Natural Resources Committee

From: Nick Tichinin

- President, Universal Seed Co. Independence, Oregon
- Owner/Operator Sunnyview Red Barn LLC- diversified farming operation- Salem, Oregon
- Current Member and Past President WVSSA

I am here to testify in opposition to HB 3382 for the following reasons:

1. Legislation was enacted in 2013 to address various issues of conflict between the production of oilseed canola and other commercial brassica and brassica seed in the Willamette Valley. Funds were provided for OSU to undertake a study with certain allowances, and restrictions, for the production of canola during this time period. There has been no change in the conditions that prompted the legislation. Changing the existing law presupposes to know the outcome of the study. The current legislation and study should be allowed to be completed as designed. The only major change from 2 years ago is that the Willamette Valley is now in the throws of a major, black leg outbreak that threatens the continued viability of all brassica crop production in the valley- including canola. This is not a prudent time to reverse the conditions of the existing law.
2. WVSSA member companies sell high value seed to every corner of the US & the world – generating significant export income and supporting hundreds of family wage jobs for Oregon. Companies make investment and hiring decisions based on their understanding of the business environment including existing laws. Universal Seed is nearing the end of a 2 year, multi-million dollar capital expansion, designed to keep up with dramatically increased market demand, and maintain state of the art processing facilities. I welcome the members of the committee to come visit. We carefully considered our recent expansion and hiring based, in measure, on the presumed 6 year time period to study and sort out this issue. Changing the existing law will have a chilling effect on all the brassica seed industry in the valley, including my business and it's employees.
3. This past fall OSU researchers encountered difficulty finding enough fields to plant the 500 of canola acres allowed for their trials. If OSU struggles to find interest to fill the requisite acres of the study what then is the impetus for HB 3382? It would appear the proposed legislation is to benefit a handful of individuals. I believe this does not justify new legislation that will affect a very large group of brassica growers and businesses across the Willamette Valley.

Respectfully,

Nick Tichinin



# Blackleg confirmed in N. Idaho canola fields

Matthew Weaver

Capital Press

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**The fungus blackleg has infected canola fields in northern Idaho, from Moscow to Grangeville, researchers say.**

Researchers have confirmed the fungal disease blackleg in 10 of 11 canola fields in northern Idaho.

The effect ranges from 1 percent to 30-40 percent of the fields, said Karen Sowers, outreach specialist for oilseeds for Washington State University Extension.

"I don't think it's necessarily cause for a panic attack but since last spring, we've been upping the education campaign on awareness," she said.

Blackleg affects brassica crops, including canola and rapeseed.

Tim Paulitz, USDA Agricultural Research Service plant pathologist, believes blackleg has likely established in the area from Moscow to Grangeville, after isolated incidents in Bonners Ferry in 2009 and near Lewiston last fall.

"It's at the point where those growers are going to have to manage it," Paulitz said.

Sowers and Lindsey du Toit, a WSU vegetable seed pathologist, say this outbreak isn't as bad as a blackleg outbreak in Oregon's Willamette Valley last year.

Du Toit said farmers should only buy certified, treated seed that's been tested for blackleg.

In the vegetable seed industry, blackleg is a zero-tolerance pathogen, du Toit said.

Sowers recommends growers check their fields, examining leaves and stems for lesions. Fungicide can be applied.

"It won't kill the disease if it's already there, but it will prevent non-infected plants from getting infected," Sowers said.