



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

May 11, 2015

RE: Opposition to HB 3382

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee,

During the 2013 session, we worked hard to craft legislation to address the controversy surrounding canola in the Willamette Valley. Organic and specialty seed farmers have consistently expressed their concern that the introduction of canola into the protected district will put their crops at risk, and threaten a thriving Oregon industry.

In 2013, we put a moratorium on growing canola and funded a study to look at the potential of coexistence between canola and specialty seeds in the protected district. We have not yet received the results of that study which should guide any future policy. HB 3382 jumps the gun by allowing up to 500 acres of canola to be planted for commercial purposes prior to the expiration of the moratorium and before we've had the opportunity to respond thoughtfully to the study we funded not quite two years ago.

HB 3382 is premature. The Legislature should abide by the compromise that was made in 2013, allow the study to be completed, and ensure that any policies related to planting canola in the protected district are informed by the study we funded. In addition, we should abide by the moratorium and ensure that if canola is introduced into the protected district, it does not occur until the expiration of the moratorium adopted by the Legislature in 2013.

This is a significant economic issue for my legislative district that boasts a thriving specialty seed industry. Please do not put that industry at risk by moving HB 3382 forward. I hope you will join me in opposing this bill and awaiting the results of the study.

Sincerely,

  
Sara Gelsler