



From the Desk of  
Senator  
Alan Olsen

## PLEASE SUPPORT HB 3382A

Interest in canola production has been growing across Oregon as a result of field trials and studies at Oregon State University that show its value as a rotation crop for producers of dryland wheat and grasses. A broadleaf crop, its benefits include breaking pest and disease cycles and its deep taproot assists growers as they move to no-till or low-till farming practices. Over 5000 acres of canola are in production in eastern Oregon, while Washington has over 30,000 acres and Idaho has close to 25,000 acres seeded.

Issues have surrounded canola production in the Willamette Valley however, driven largely by the specialty seed industry. A member of the Brassicacea family, canola is genetically nearly identical to other unrestricted crops grown in the Valley such as turnips and radish. The 2013 Legislature responded to these concerns by imposing a six-year moratorium on canola production and funded a study by OSU of up to 500 acres of production in years 1, 2, and 3 of this moratorium. Results of this study are due in November 2016, yet the moratorium extends to January 1, 2019.

Demand for canola is growing. The American Heart Association deems it a heart-healthy product and the resultant meal derived from canola production is a highly desired, high-protein animal feed particularly valuable to the dairy industry. Local processing of both the oil and meal are underway with the limited product available from this 500-acre study.

HB 3382A seeks to simply allow this limited production of 500 acres to continue in years 4, 5, and 6 of this moratorium period. Specifics of the study are defined and ODA is asked to create a process for encouraging voluntary co-existence of this crop at the conclusion of the moratorium period should the study indicate that canola does not present unique pest and disease issues for the Willamette Valley. **Please support HB 3382A.**