



The Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) is a trade support organization, working to advance the development and growth of the organic industry and community in Oregon. The OOC represents volunteer stakeholders--farmers, wholesalers, processors, organic certifiers, scientists, consumers and retailers. We lead promotional activities and advocate for state policy to support and grow Oregon's organic trade.

Support for Senate Bill 885

April 2, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Attn: Chair, Senator Dembrow, Vice-Chair, Senator Olsen and Members of the Committee

Re: Written testimony SB 885

We urge you to support limiting canola production in the Willamette Valley, in order to preserve the protections granted by 2013 House Bill 2427. This Bill expired in 2019 and, without the adequate required, peer-reviewed research to support the safety of growing Canola in the Willamette Valley, it is necessary to extend these limitations. Canola easily cross-pollinates with brassica specialty seed crops like broccoli, kale, and cabbage, and can spread plant diseases and pests to brassica vegetable and seed crops. Canola can contaminate pure lots of vegetable and clover seed, which renders them unsalable in international and local markets. A majority of canola is genetically engineered, which contaminates both organic and conventional varieties, as well as cross-pollinates with weeds, which can create new invasive species problems, as herbicide resistance spreads to weed populations. Canola poses risks to a healthy and growing specialty seed and crop market, which impacts both organic and conventional farmers, jeopardizing rural economies, and opportunities for growth, in our state. Compared to the small economic opportunity presented by growing canola, the threat to the thriving and multi-million-dollar specialty seed and organic agricultural trade is just not worth it.

Oregon's lawmakers and governor made the right decision in 2013, except for one thing: the Willamette Valley should remain protected for the long term; we must protect Oregon's farmers and environment, and the valuable specialty seed industry in the Willamette Valley. Vote yes on SB 885.

Presented by Stacy Kraker, President for Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) and Jonathan Manton, Advocate for Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC)

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On behalf of Oregon's Organic Trade and OOC members

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Advancing the development and growth of the organic industry and community

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