

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Chair Dembrow & members of the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources:

My name is Kathy Freeborn Hadley, and I am writing in **opposition to Senate Bill 885**.

First of all, I apologize for not being there in person, but we just had a baby last Thursday so I'm home recovering & getting adjusted to life with a newborn. Also, hopefully this is coherent as sleep has not been plentiful as of late!

I farm with my father just west of Salem in the Rickreall area. We raise a variety of crops on just under 1000 acres, predominantly grass seeds, but also grains, hay, specialty seeds, canola, & have 25 cows & sell grass-fed beef. We do not hire any help, so we are as truly a **'family farm'** as you could get. This year's crop marks the 9th year of raising canola as a rotation on our farm in recent years (my father also grew some in the 80's). My husband & I also run his family farm east of Silverton & canola has been phenomenal as a rotation there, but I will let him elaborate on that in his testimony.

There are a number of benefits to having canola as an option, particularly for growers with lower quality soils & those lacking irrigation. I'm happy to expand on them anytime, but to be succinct here, I will just stress that in addition to benefiting individual farms, a dependable canola industry is also a tremendous benefit for the livestock & dairy industries, local food movements, & also greatly beneficial to pollinator health!

To be blunt, it is ludicrous that the same body that has appropriated around a million dollars between 2 studies ('06-'09 & '13-'16) to analyze canola & its potential effects, is also considering legislation that **completely ignores the outcomes and information from that research**. It is also absolutely absurd that this body is contemplating legislation that would, **for a second time**, cut off the state's Department of Agriculture at the knees, concerning the time, effort, & path forward the Department is creating in conjunction with their current canola rules advisory committee (the 2013 legislation passed as ODA was in the final stages of promulgating a canola rule).

I implore you - respect the investment & efforts of Oregon State's work, and trust your state Department of Agriculture to **do their job** creating a path forward with the canola issue. Please do not further muddy the waters for the agricultural industry by picking winners & losers between farmers who have different cropping interests and needs.

Thank you,



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Freeborn Family Farms, Rickreall  
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