



April 2, 2019

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee. For the record my name is Anna Scharf and I am President of the Willamette Valley Oilseed producers Assoc., founding board member of the WA, ID, MT and OR Pacific NW Canola Association, and the only Oregon member of the US Canola Association Board of Directors.

I will be as brief and as concise as possible:

- In 2012 ODA engaged vegetable seed companies and the grass seed industry in the canola conversation.
- In 2013 Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Assoc (WVSSA) walked away from the conversation because "they could not have their name associated with a rule that they did not believe in".
- Their solution was to take a bill to the legislature that would ban canola completely in the Willamette Valley.
- The legislative compromise was HB2427 giving OSU \$679K to study 500 acres each of canola, turnip and radish for 6 years and deliver a report to the legislature by 11/1/17.
- This bill was publicly supported in testimony by The Oregon Environmental Council, Friends of Family Farmers, The Sierra Club, Universal Seed, Oregon Seed Council and WVSSA.

Today, 6 years later, the OSU research is done, and ODA made recommendation to the Legislature which included the formation of a Rules Advisory committee to help draft coexistence rules. WVSSA has again chosen to walk away from the process. In fact, they notified the State Board of Ag at their 11/29/18 meeting that they did not have trust in the report or the department and would be coming to the Legislature. This was weeks before the RAC even began discussions. They want SB885 passed to limit size and control the location of only canola acres. Both are not scientifically justifiable based on the research; research that they supported in 2013.

- "Co-existence allows for different kinds of production or crops at the same time in the same area, it is not about exclusion." (pg12 of OSU report).
- Per the Executive Summary from the OSU Report (pg1) "The results of this research provide no reason, agronomic or biological, that canola production should be prohibited in the Willamette Valley when there are no restrictions on the production of other Brassicaceae crops.....In other words, if canola is restricted then to must be turnips and other Brassicaceae crops".

In 2013 members of the House and the Senate, from both sides of the aisle, were very clear about sending the wrong message to OSU and ODA. Representative Clem (4/18/13) "Legislature overruling ODA is not a good practice". Senator Johnson (6/21/13) "asking 90 amateurs to make decisions makes less sense than having ODA hash it out.....good science makes good policy". Then Representative Read (6/21/13) "I hope that if legislation moves forward the research will be seen as legitimate and we will not be back in this building because one party or the other does not like the results." Even the original sponsor of the bill then Representative Gelser, stated (3/19/13) "OSU researchers are the best in the world". (5/16/13) "Moving the bill forward is a way to keep listening to the science."

Passing SB885 would send a message of distrust in OSU research scientists and communicate to ODA that the Legislature is willing to pass laws without their input.

Please stop SB885 and let science and the agency do their jobs.