



April 2, 2019

Senate Committee on Environment on Natural Resources

RE: SB 885 – **OPPOSED**

Chairman Dembrow & Committee,

My name is Marie Bowers and I am fifth generation farmer in Linn & Lane Counties. We primarily grow grass seed with a variety of other seed crops, including canola. My family takes great pride in being responsible stewards of the land and the soil that grows our crops. We have done so sustainably for over 100 years.

I am opposed to SB 885, limiting the number of acres of Canola that can be grown in the Willamette Valley.

Growing canola for us was not for the economic benefit of the crop but for the environmental benefit. Options are limited for rotational crops and we see potential in canola for that. Growing a species besides grass allows us to manage pests & weeds differently than constantly growing the same crop and using the same management. Having a variety of crops available to us is vital as tools are being taken away from us.

There is no reason that canola should be treated any different than any other brassica. A five-year study at Oregon State demonstrated that it did not propose any greater risk in spreading diseases and pests. To quote Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith "research has not identified any characteristics of canola that make it uniquely different than other Brassicacea species in regard to disease or pests."

High value & low value brassicas already co-exist in the valley. We grew turnips last year. Turnips are grown with unrestricted acreage and are not subject to the "pinning". No problems have arisen from this crop, so why is Canola any different? According to Oregon State it is not.

I am an affiliate member of the WVSSA because I believe in the pinning system, but not the restriction of acres. The Oregon Meadowfoam Growers are represented on their board and as a meadowfoam grower too it is disheartening for them to speak on my behalf when I wholeheartedly disagree. These groups need to have more discussions with their growers rather than pushing divisive legislation.

This bill is being pushed in bad faith by the Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Growers Association (WVSSA). In 2013, they agreed to the bill that studied Canola in the Willamette Valley. They should agree with the results from the study they supported.



The Oregon legislature should not be picking winners and losers in farming. The markets do a good job of that already. This would set a bad precedent. The Oregon Legislature should not be dictating what crops farmers can and cannot grow and where.

I urge you to oppose SB 885.