



OREGON
BUSINESS
& INDUSTRY



No on HB 4059

HB 4059 was intended to support coexistence between canola and specialty seed producers. **Rather than a fair solution, the -7 proposes extreme and permanent restrictions on genetic engineering, a key technology for future food production.** The -7 caters to one industry's market standards while unfairly restricting access to markets and opportunities for other producers.

- **The -7 proposes restrictions on genetic engineering in the entire Willamette Valley, for all brassica crops, not just canola.** This does not implement the Oregon Dept of Agriculture workgroup recommendations. Instead, it **unnecessarily restricts crops and markets** and goes far beyond those needing solutions.
- Consensus from legislators in the 2023 session was to replace restrictions on crops with a public pinning system and science-based isolation distances. **With pinning and isolation practices, caps and restrictions on other crops are not necessary.**
- The proposed restriction on genetic engineering **has no scientific basis.** Oregon State University scientists stated clearly on the record: there is no scientific reason to treat GE brassicas differently from conventionally bred brassicas.
- The proposed restriction **goes against ODA's own policies**, which support growers retaining the legal right to choose production technologies necessary to meet the markets they choose to serve.
- The proposed restriction is **regressive and ignores global scientific recognition** that genetic engineering (e.g. [CRISPR technology](#)) is the future of plant breeding. This bill would restrict Oregon growers from future innovations and markets.
- There is **no human or environmental health threat justifying this restriction.** This simply prioritizes one industry, while disadvantaging others. **Not the role of state policy, nor an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.**

Restricting opportunities for some growers to protect others is not coexistence.

VOTE NO ON HB 4059