

Submitter: Yianni Doulis

On Behalf Of: Wild Goose Farm

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB4059

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and members of the committee:

My name is Yianni Doulis and I am an orchardist, gardener and seed saver on Sauvie Island outside of Portland. Specialty Brassica seed growing in the Willamette Valley is a vital part of our thriving small farm ecosystem here in Oregon. We are so lucky to be able to produce seeds in our region that produce millions of pounds of food the world over. It is our duty to protect the ability of our farmers to grow vegetable seeds, feeding their families through viable farm businesses, and the world through the food the seeds produce. I am writing to you to express support for HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8.

I care about seed farming in the Willamette Valley Protected District because of the rich tradition of enhancing bio-diversity and developing new strains for commercial use that the industry carries on. Maintaining our leadership position in this domain is a key factor in developing climate resilience. Importantly, too, it is a competitive advantage in attracting talented researchers and young farmers to Oregon, and in showcasing Oregon's position in the forefront of the movement toward food sovereignty and open source seed selection.

I am grateful for the work of the committee, the named isolation districts and the limitation of GE canola in the WVPD. We urge you to remember what Oregon's seed growers bring to the table through the farming they enable, the rural economies their farms participate in, the crucial knowledge they hold and the need for food security through seed security. This proposal already represents a huge compromise for the seed growers and we cannot afford to lose any more ground. When you consider HB 4059, please listen to the guidance of specialty seed growers and support the strongest possible option for Oregon, especially in their ongoing reservations about the bills details.

Sincerely,

Yianni Doulis