

Submitter: AMY BENSON

On Behalf
Of:

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 Amy Benson and my husband and I are members of the Oregon Farm Bureau. We also own and operate a certified organic vegetable farm in Forest Grove. 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 neutrality on HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8.

Brassica seed production is only viable in particular growing regions such as the Willamette Valley. Canola production has less specific growing conditions and is widely adapted to many regions of the United States. Please don't trade a viable and valuable seed production industry for a crop that does not have special needs.

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.

Sincerely,

Amy Benson
Square Peg Farm