

Submitter: Estelle Voeller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: HB4059

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and members of the committee:

My name is Estelle Voeller and I am writing in support of HB 4059-A. I am an organic gardener supplying food for my family and friends, as well as a supporter of my local farmers market, living in Jackson County outside the city of Phoenix. If I cannot find locally-grown seeds, I look to other Oregon growers providing organic seeds. The Willamette Valley Specialty Brassica seed industry is vital to growers and gardeners throughout Oregon. Please protect these farmers' ability to grow the seeds that produce millions of pounds of food across the world.

I support the -9 amendment because the current regulations need to be extended until outstanding issues can be resolved. This is a complex issue and still needs more work. Those wanting to grow seed for oil do have other alternatives - such as sunflower, flax, safflower etc - which do not cause the same level of cross contamination as canola. It is essential that the integrity of organic brassica seed is maintained, not only to protect the viability of Willamette seed growers, but also for others wanting to purchase and use their products, which provide protection of pollinators and other insects, micro-organisms, our soils, and water.

Specialty seed growers provide a valuable contribution to the health, economy and environment of Oregon. We need them and their expertise. Please protect them while more permanent solutions can be developed.

I urge support for HB 4059-A