



## Willamette Valley Oilseed Producers Association

1055 S Pacific Highway West

Rickreall, OR 97371

*Kathy Hadley, Secretary-Treasurer: (503) 559-5901*

*Jana Jarvis, Lobbyist: (503) 522-5902*

June 19, 2013

### **Please vote "NO" on HB 2427 (as amended)**

We, the undersigned, oppose House Bill 2427A and we urge all members of the Oregon Legislature to vote "No" on House Bill 2427 (as amended).

We do not believe that the Legislature should be involved in the detailed regulation of any crop. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has the experience and expertise to regulate canola production equitably and responsibly throughout the state. The current ODA administrative rule governing canola production in the Willamette Valley represents more than a year of collaborative work by ODA staff and OSU staff, as well as representatives of many diverse agricultural associations and interests in the Valley. The ODA rule, which became permanent in February of this year, is a reasonable and prudent pathway to coexistence between all Brassica seed crops. The rule allows limited canola production in isolated areas on the edges of the Valley, it requires stringent crop management practices and it requires each grower to have a canola production contract with ODA.

ODA and OSU already have determined that 2,500 acres of annual canola production in isolated parts of the eastern, western and northern edges of the Willamette Valley (as delineated on the map defined by the current ODA rule) poses no exclusive threat to other crops. Any legislation must maintain at least 2,500 acres of annual commercial canola production in the Valley. There were around 2,500 acres of canola produced annually in the Valley for several consecutive years during the late 1980's and early 1990's. 2,500 acres of annual canola production is a small area compared to the 12,000 to 20,000 acres of cover crop radish seed and forage turnip seed currently produced in the Valley each year. Cover crop radish and forage turnip share the same pest, disease and weed profiles that canola does, yet they are completely unregulated by ODA.

From 2007 through 2009, ODA and OSU studied commercial canola in the Willamette Valley with money provided by the Legislature. If a new study is requested and funded by the Legislature, the study must go further and focus on the co-existence of all Brassica seed crops in the Valley, including cover crop radish seed and forage turnip seed—NOT just canola.

Canola is a valuable crop providing a much-needed economic broadleaf rotation for wheat and grass seed farmers producing crops on non-irrigated ground. Canola production and processing will generate significant new economic activity in the Valley. 2,500 acres of annual canola production represents a commercially viable area that will be purchased by regional oilseed processors. Also, it will provide the volume of oilseed meal required to provide a reliable feed supply to one or more local dairies. Valley growers are primarily interested in raising Non-GMO canola varieties because of higher yields and the premiums associated with the Non-GMO niche market.

**Please vote "No" on HB 2427 (as amended).**

We, the undersigned farmers, oppose House Bill 2427A and urge all members of the Oregon Legislature to vote "No" on House Bill 2427A.

Name	Business	City	Signature
1 Troy & Kathy Hadley	Hadley Farms	Silverton	Troy Hadley Kathy Hadley
2 Eugene Kazemir	Rickreall Dairy	Rickreall	Eugene Kazemir
3 Richard Allen	FirCrest Farms	Rickreall	Richard Allen
4 Thomas Crawford	Seabrooks Farms	Amity	Thomas Crawford
5 Godx White	Whites Hauling Farm	Independence	Godx White
6 Toby white	Whites Farms	Independence	Toby White
7 Dean L. Freeborn	Freeborn Farms	Rickreall	Dean L. Freeborn
8 Ronald D. Alderson	Alderson Farms	Independence	Ronald D. Alderson
9 JACK PLATT	CAK HILL DAIRY	INDEPENDENCE	Jack Platt
10 Dan Selby	Selby's Farms	Independence	Dan Selby
11 David F. Schaefer	Selby's Trading	Indep. of	David F. Schaefer
12 Claude Freese	Freese Farms	Monmouth, OR	Claude Freese
13 CHAD Freeborn	Farm	Independence, OR	Chad Freeborn
14 John Schauf	Schauf Farm Inc	Amity, OR	John Schauf
15 Dustin Wilfong	Dustin Wilfong Farms	Dallas, OR	Dustin Wilfong
16 Len Stapleton	Stapleton Seavyside Farms	Dallas, OR	Len Stapleton
17 Bryce Cruickshank	Farm	Sheridan, OR	Bryce Cruickshank
18 Ronald L. May	Farm	Dallas, OR	Ronald L. May
19 Scot May	Pacific Farms Co	Rickreall, OR	Scot May
20 Ron Bonnett	Mountain Spring Farms	Rickreall OR	Ron Bonnett
21 KADD MARTINEAU	MARTINEAU FARM	RICKREALL OR	Kadd Martineau
22 David D. Cruickshank	Farm	DAINTON	David D. Cruickshank
23 Michael T. Vandenberg	North Valley Farms, LLC	Banks	Michael Vandenberg
24 Jerry M. DuVal	DuVal Farms	Silverton	Jerry M. DuVal
25 Charles T. Sherman	Monarch Seeds	Sublimity	Charles T. Sherman