

Submitter: Brandon Schilling

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 Brandon Schilling and I am a farmer, community member, food advocate, food system developer and seed saver in Clatskanie. 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 neutrality on HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8.

I care about seed farming in the Willamette Valley Protected District because seed is our only way to maintain sovereignty. Our food system is being weaponized by massive corporate interests, and it is time to put a halt on the destructive practices of industrialized and genetically modified crop production, be it food or fuel. Notice your liability to public health and the future generations. Are you for or against humanity? Do you serve your constituents? Or do you serve the controlling class responsible for poisoning and enslaving citizens the world round? This is not conspiracy theory. This is conspiracy FACT. Allowing GE canola (associated with: practices contributing to over half of GHG emissions, significant watershed, land, and air contamination, and PROVEN carcinogenic chemicals) is directly opposing farmers, rural economies, and any hope for our planet to heal.

Nonetheless, 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,

Brandon