

Submitter: Matthew Parker

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB4059

Good afternoon

Chair helm ,vice- chair owens ,vice chair hartman, and members of the committee.  
My name is Matthew parker. I am a fourth generation grass seed, wheat, turnip,  
clover ,peas,,flax and canola grower in the lebanon and Scio area of the Willamette  
valley. I have grown both conventional and GMO canola crops with no problems  
whatsoever !! I am here today to support hb4059 with the -8 amendments.

3983 days .

That's how long it's been since some of us here today sat in hearing room D right  
down the hall and debated over canola on march 19-2013.

Hb2427

Hb3382

Sb 885

Sb 789

All of these bills have kicked the can down the road to where we are today !!

Oregon tax payers spent almost a million dollars on research for canola coexistence  
research ., and yet today very few people want to follow or believe Oregon State  
Univerities research.

Why not follow the science???

In a Chinese science bulletin from may 2013 the article states ...

The isolation distance required for trials involving genet- ically modified (GM)  
rapeseed (*Brassica napus*) varies widely, although for most nations, it ranges from  
50–400 m. A 50-m isolation distance is recommended for GM trials in the United  
Kingdom (UK) with a 200-m isolation distance recommended for organic crops. In the  
UK, an isolation distance of 50 m is also required for growing crops with high levels of  
erucic acid . Canadian regulations stipulate a 200-m isolation distance for GM canola  
trials, or a 10-m wide border of synchronously flowering non-GM plants around the  
entire trial area . An isolation distance of 400 m is required for GM trials in France,  
Belgium and Sweden. Australian GM trial requirements include a 400-m isolation  
distance and a 15-m non-GM buffer However, in China, more than 1000 m is  
required for isolation from other Brassica plants in confined field trials of GM rape-  
seed according to the Implementation Regulations on Safety Assessment of  
Agricultural GMOs of China The 1000-m isolation distance is the longest of all of the  
minimum isolation distances defined by governments throughout the world for trials  
involving GM rapeseed.

Longer isolation distances increase both costs and the difficulty of implementing regulations, which together substantially restrict GM-crop development. With the increasing number of field trials of GM rapeseed in China, more and more debate has centered around whether the isolation distance of 1000 m can be justified in scientific terms, or whether the regulation should be revised to better address the needs for the development of GM rapeseed varieties

So if gm canola research (where results must be accurate and factual) can be done in china ( where a substantial amount of the specialty seed that is grown in oregon is shipped to ) with a 1000 meter isolation (which is 3281 feet approximately) Surely farmers in oregon can grow canola with a 4 mile isolation distance Without harming other brassica seed producers. That's over 5 times the distance required for gm canola research in china. The current oregon isolation is only 3 miles. So the -8 amendments would actually increase protection for specialty seed growers in the Willamette valley protected district .

There are many GE crops currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration including :  
Soybeans,field corn,sweet corn,cotton,papaya,alfalfa,sugar beets,potatoes,apples,pineapple,rice, and squash .

Many of these are grown in Oregon including sugar beets (no acreage cap) corn , alfalfa, and canola.

Ge canola has already been grown in the Willamette valley with 0 problems , so why restrict something that has been proven for the last ten years to work!!!

Please support HB 4059 with the -8 amendments and let's FOLLOW THE SCIENCE TOGETHER!!!

Please stop kicking the can down the road so we're not here again in another 3983 days !!!

Thank you very much for your time