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On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4059

HB 4059 was intended to support coexistence between canola and specialty seed producers. Rather than a fair solution, the -7 proposes extreme and permanent restrictions on genetic engineering, a key technology for future food production. The -7 caters to one industry's market standards while unfairly restricting access to markets and opportunities for other producers.

- The -7 proposes restrictions on genetic engineering in the entire Willamette Valley, for all brassica crops, not just canola. This does not implement the ODA work group recommendations. Instead, it unnecessarily restricts crops and markets and goes far beyond those needing solutions.
 - The proposed restriction on genetic engineering has no scientific basis. OSU scientists stated clearly on the record: there is no scientific reason to treat GE brassicas differently from conventionally bred brassicas.
 - The proposed restriction goes against ODA's own policies, which support growers retaining the legal right to choose production technologies necessary to meet the markets they choose to serve.
 - The proposed restriction is regressive and ignores global scientific recognition that genetic engineering (e.g. CRISPR technology) is the future of plant breeding. This bill would restrict Oregon growers from future innovations and markets.
 - There is no human or environmental health threat justifying this restriction. This simply prioritizes one industry, while disadvantaging others. Not the role of state policy, nor an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.
- Restricting opportunities for some growers to protect others is not coexistence. It is nonsense!