

February 13, 2024

Testimony Armstrong-Zielinski HB4059

Thank you for the opportunity to talk today. My name is Michelle Armstrong-Zielinski. I have spent almost 20 years as an agronomist working with organic and conventional farmers. Today I have the opportunity to speak on behalf of several fresh market vegetable growers located in the Willamette Valley.

6 years ago, I testified for many of these same farmers in support of a ban or cap on canola in the Valley and today I testify to support all agricultural opportunities for farmers. The fresh market farmers that I represent feel that we can all work together with the implementation of a public pinning system for all brassica growers. I oppose the -7 which would restrict some growers to benefit others. A public pinning system that provides isolation and gives everyone a fair chance to grow the crops of their choice without caps or restrictions is a very solid solution. While fresh market vegetable crops are not purposefully taken to seed, they do need to be recognized in the brassica discussion due to potential disease and increased insect pressure which can make their crops unmarketable.

Cabbage Maggots are of the most concern, they over winter as pupae and emerge in the early spring and are present through fall with multiple generations per year. They feed on the roots and bulbs of the brassica plants for 3 weeks before pupating where they emerge as adult flies 2 weeks later. The adult fly can travel at least a mile in search of a host plant suitable to deposit eggs. A host plant includes any brassica whether it is an adjacent crop or an escape or weed present. I have included photos and links to more information on cabbage maggots. I urge you to vote NO on HB 4059 and the -7 and rather look to a fair and equitable solution. Thank you for your time!



Delia radicum female adult (Photo by Ken Gray) <https://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/oregon-vegetables/cabbage-maggot>



[JOE INGERSON-MAHAR](#)

<https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/early-spring-insect-pests/cabbage-maggot-in-radish2-2/>



UC ANR <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=18946>



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<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/lorsban-alternatives-for-cabbage-maggot-control-in-brassica-root-crops>



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ADelia_radicum%2C_koolvlieg_pop_en_maden.jpg