

Submitter: Marie Bowers

On Behalf Of: Bashaw Land and Seed

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

Measure: HB4059

Chair Helm and members of the committee,

I urge you to oppose the -7 amendments and adopt the -8 amendments.

My family and I farm in Linn and Lane Counties and have a variety of soil types. We are always looking for crops that fit in our rotation. Brassicas allows us to use a different set of tools than used on our main crop grass seed. This helps to maintain and improve soil health and prevent disease and pest pressure.

This year we are growing grass seed, meadowfoam, wheat and turnips (brassica).

The last few years the Oregon Legislature is constantly telling us to "follow the science". The -7 amendments do the opposite of that and contradicts the Oregon Department of Agriculture's own policy. It ignores and contradicts well established and well researched science on genetically engineered crops.

The -7 also sets a precedence that one method of plant breeding is superior to another type. As well as sets a precedence for future limitation on crop technology. We should be looking to advance our farming practices and technology, not limit them. What happens when the activists decided to go after the sugar beet seed grown in this valley because it's genetically engineered or the field corn that our already struggling dairies rely upon?

If the intent is to create coexistence then the -8 accomplishes that by treating all brassicas equally as they should be. Coexistence is possible but not when you feed into unnecessary fears and ignore facts.

Thank you.

Please adopt the -8 amendments.