

Submitter: Bob VanderZanden

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB4059

I am a semi-retired grass seed grower and seed conditioner. I strongly oppose the -7 amendment and support the growing of canola in the Willamette Valley.

Oregon seed growers produced \$637 million revenue in 2021 from about 350,000 acres. Our industry is suffering in 2023 due to market conditions. Our industry expects to limit production by reducing acreage by 10 to 20%. That means that 50,000 acres are looking for a crop. Wheat, clovers, and other grains are possible but the market for each of these is trending down. We need canola! You have heard of the many benefits of growing canola. Canola is a wonderful rotation crop for grass seed.

Please, be Leaders! Sure, there are some potential problems. Research those problems. Check with other areas where canola is produced. Check with experts who have studied gene flow. Test the theories presented. Leaders solve problems.

I live in the Tualatin Valley. We are geographically isolated from the rest of the Willamette Valley. I do not know of any brassica seed grown here. Use our valley as a test bed. Allow us to grow as much canola as we desire. See if any problems arise where there is little chance of harm.

Our industry needs canola

Thank you  
Bob VanderZanden