

Submitter: Kate Perle

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4059

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and members of the committee:

I am Kate Perle and I am a diversified farmer and seed saver in Eugene, OR. I grow all types of vegetables and fruit and grow 80 % of it from saved seed. I also sell seed at my farmstand and at sales events throughout the year. Included in my seed saving efforts are lots of plants in the Brassica family. Being able to save, select and improve on commercially available varieties makes my farming economically possible. There are many farms like mine and specialty seed growers in my area. Specialty Brassica seed growing in the Willamette Valley is a vital part of our thriving small farm ecosystem here in Oregon. That our bioregion is particularly well suited to seed production is no accident and it is not the case most anywhere else. Seed we save here produces millions of pounds of food consumed domestically and abroad. Protecting this ability to grow seed is a sacred duty to local farmers, consumers all over the states, and to the generations that came before us and saved seed year to year to bring us this food producing ability. I am writing to you to express neutrality on HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8.

I care about seed farming in the Willamette Valley Protected District because saving and growing out seed to feed my community is my life's work.

I am grateful for the work of the committee, the named isolation districts and the limitation of GE canola in the WVPD. We urge you to remember what Oregon's seed growers bring to the table through the farming they enable, the rural economies their farms participate in, the crucial knowledge they hold and the need for food security through seed security. This proposal already represents a huge compromise for the seed growers and we cannot afford to lose any more ground. When you consider HB 4059, please listen to the guidance of specialty seed growers and support the strongest possible option for Oregon.

Sincerely,
Kate Perle