

Submitter: Chris Roehm

On Behalf Of: Square Peg Farm Inc

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:

My name is Chris Roehm and my wife and I are a certified organic vegetable farmers in Forest Grove. We have supported our family and the local economy with our farming enterprise since 2003. We market our produce in Portland and, as much as possible, purchase our inputs locally. This is especially true of our seeds because locally produced seeds perform best in the climate where they were bred and grown. However, the specialty seed industry in Oregon supports more than the local produce growers - it supports agriculture all over the country and the world. Unlike seeds grown for oil production, like canola, seed grown for planting requires special conditions that are hard to find but exist here in the Willamette Valley. For this reason I am writing to you to express support on HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8

I care about seed farming in the Willamette Valley Protected District because it supports my business and vegetable production around the world. Canola for oil seed can be grown practically anywhere and many rotation crops for grass seed already exist and are compatible with other ag activities in the valley.

Thanks for your work on the committee. As you consider these bills please bear in mind the unique nature of the specialty seed industry in the Willamette Valley and the vast network of agriculture businesses it supports. This would be a terrible thing to waste for the sake of adding another low profit commodity crop to a long list of already available and neighbor-friendly options.

Sincerely,

Chris Roehm
Square Peg Farm, Inc.
Forest Grove, OR