

Submitter: Jessica Cuadra

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4059

As a plant nursery owner, I am deeply concerned about the risks to brassica seed as an economic and biological resource if canola growth is not restricted. While I ordinarily would support the right of any land owner to use that property as they see fit, and certainly to grow any crop that they wish, pollen drift from canola causes irreparable damage to seed crops for miles around. This damages the seed of other growers, and once the genetics are out in the wild, it cannot be stopped. We cannot risk losing the biggest (almost the only) source of brassica seeds ON THE PLANET to canola pollution. This would permanently impair our ability to feed billions of people.

If you imagine having no broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, romanesco, or kale available in the grocery store or farmers market, let alone backyard gardens, you're imagining the very real possibility if canola growth is permitted to expand. No brassica seed means no brassica crops.

More personally, I am working on research and experimental projects to further develop perennial brassica food crops, in order to provide more sustainable food crops to the Willamette Valley. This important work could be permanently foreclosed if canola genetics were introduced into the experimental crops via pollen drift. Please limit canola in the Willamette Valley as much as possible.

Thank you,

Jessica Cuadra

Basil & Bees Nursery