

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

My name is Aimee Marciniak and I am a farmer in Lebanon. Specialty Brassica seed growing in the Willamette Valley is a vital part of our thriving small farm ecosystem in Oregon. Our bioregion produces seed that produce millions of pounds of food the world over. It is our duty to protect the ability of our farmers to grow vegetable seeds, feeding their families through viable farm businesses, and the world through the food the seeds produce.

I am writing to you to express support for HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8.

I care about seed farming in the Willamette Valley Protected District because I value many accomplished seed farmers and their businesses in my farming community, I purchase their seeds each year for my home garden, as well as growing fodder crops for my livestock.

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,

Aimee Marciniak

Grassward Dairy

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