

Submitter: Avry Miller

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:

My name is Avry Miller and I am a farmer and educator in Southern Oregon.

Specialty Brassica seed growing in the Willamette Valley is a vital part of our thriving small farm ecosystem here in Oregon. We are so lucky to be able to produce seeds in our region 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 so many of the seeds we grow on our farm and in our educational programming come from this region. Having seeds adapted for our unique climate and knowing the quality of them is important to not only the quality and resilience of the produce we grow at our non-profit farm but also the success of farmers around us that can train the next generation of farmers. We keep the money in-state and support the resilience and health of the seed farmers. Living in a GMO free region in Southern Oregon, seed production is a thriving business here and I know I can trust the seeds I buy locally but I source many things from the Willamette Valley.

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,
Avry Miller