

Submitter: Rachael DeBuse

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4059

Chairman Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and members of the Committee,

My name is Rachael DeBuse and I am a farmer and seed saver, farming just north of Eugene. I am writing to express my neutrality for HB 4059-7. I strongly oppose HB 4059-8. I made my decision based on how each proposal would affect the ability of small farmers to grow specialty Brassica seed in the Willamette Valley, either for sale or for perpetuating a farm-grown lineage of seed.

I support small farmer's rights to protect the genetic material within the seed crops they work very hard to grow. We have benefitted immensely from the quality seed we both buy from seed growers in the valley and that which we grow out here on the farm. There is a very high risk of cross contamination from canola genetic material if canola growing should be allowed to increase in the valley, as brassica seed does require isolation in order to remain genetically true. Once contaminated, especially with GE canola, the seed line is not retrievable.

I am grateful for the work of the committee, the isolation districts, and the limitation of GE canola in the WVPD. When you consider HB 4059, please heed the needs of specialty seed growers in protecting their valuable seed crops. We all depend on food security through seed security.

Sincerely,

Rachael DeBuse
1640 East Beacon Drive
Eugene, OR 97404