

Submitter: AMY BENSON

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: HB4059

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and members of the committee:

My name is Amy Benson and I am writing in support of HB 4059-A. My husband and I own and operate a certified organic farm in Forest Grove and we are members of the Oregon Farm Bureau. Canola can be grown in many places across the United States. Specialty brassica seed has specific needs and can only be produced in specific places, such as the Willamette Valley.

Because a reasonable agreement could not be reached after the work group process, extending the current regulations for canola is the only viable option.

We know that HB 4059-A is not the end of the road and we will have to find a more permanent solution in the next few years. I urge legislators to listen to the specialty seed growers in this process. Just because they are not the biggest, most industrialized farms does not mean that they have any less value in the system. Please respect their knowledge of the plant biology, industry standards and best practices that have made this a thriving industry here in our state. In particular, we need future policy to address limitations on crop varieties that threaten organic production.

Thank you,

Amy Benson

Square Peg Farm

Forest Grove