

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: HB4059

It is my understanding that canola crops, particularly GMO versions, may endanger the lucrative and more diversified growing of seed and brassica vegetable crops in the Willamette Valley. I don't think it makes sense to endanger enterprises that have proven to be highly valuable to this region by permitting expansion for a monocrop. More diverse crops are more resilient and can take advantage of crop rotation to break cycles of disease and insect infestation, among other benefits. From what I've read, cross-pollination from canola is a danger due to genetic similarities with these other brassicas, and GMO canola is often sprayed with herbicides, particularly glyphosates, that may harm other crops. Glyphosates can also be harmful to farm workers and other people, domestic animals and wildlife. So extending the current limitations on the acreage in which GMO and non-GMO canola can be grown while further study of this very controversial issue is done seems very reasonable to me. I frequently buy seed for my garden from these local growers and would be very sad to have to buy from out of state providers. Please uphold the interests of seed and brassica vegetable growers, along with farm workers and others, and pass this bill.