

Submitter: Lyn Jacobs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure: HB4059

My name is Lyn Jacobs and I am writing in support of HB 4059-A. I am a CSA farmer in Hillsboro . The Willamette Valley Specialty Brassica seed industry is vital to the agricultural landscape of Oregon and we are so lucky to have the land, expertise and conditions to support this unique industry. We should protect these farmers' ability to grow the seeds that produce millions of pounds of food across the world.

Because a reasonable agreement could not be reached after the work group process, extending the current regulations is the only viable option. This topic means so much to me because:

We have been farming for 24 years and brassicas are an essential part of our produce baskets weekly. We grow a wide variety for our customers and rely on organic seed to raise healthy crops. Having that seed grown right here in the willamette valley means is is perfectly adapted to our climate and bound to be successful. Seed security is vital to all farmers who care about plant diversity and future ability to grow food no matter the political or world environment as it is available right here. Monocropping has been shown to be detrimental in many studies and in wide experience nation wide

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 the need to limit (eliminate) crop varieties that threaten organic production of seeds. There needs to be accountability and share risk for all parties, not just small seed growers.[]

Thank you,
Lyn Jacobs
La Finquita del Buho]
Hillsboro