



TO: State Board of Agriculture

From: Willamette Valley Oilseed Producers Association (WVOPA)

RE: Willamette Valley Protected District

February 13, 2019

The Willamette Valley Oilseed Producers Association would like to re-affirm their support for the Department of Agriculture and their continued work towards resolution for production of Brassicaceae crops in the Willamette Valley.

The department has reviewed the Oregon State University research conducted from 2013 to 2016 under HB2427 and is in the process of using those scientific results to move forward with a Rules Advisory Committee.

We still firmly believe that coexistence and enforcement of coexistence rules should reside within the Department of Agriculture and not with a private voluntary organization. The current OAR's and ORS's along with the structure of the Department of Agriculture are designed to carry out this function in a way that is fair, equitable and that would stand up in a court of law if challenged.

We are concerned that there are organizations that would prefer that protected districts be established based on current, perceived or estimated future market values instead of scientifically proven pest, disease and weed pressures. We are also under the impression that they are preparing to introduce legislation to seek just that; market based protected districts. We believe that this practice would have unintended consequences throughout the entire natural resource industry in Oregon. It could even spill over into non-agriculture businesses. It is a dangerous path to go down and we hope that they will realize this before taking those steps.

A great deal of time and funding has been put into examining the Willamette Valley Protected District and what that should look like going forward. This process needs to be completed using the existing authority of the department, and we encourage the Board of Agriculture to support the department in their efforts to complete this work.

Regards,

Anna Scharf, WVOPA Board President

Matt Crawford, WVOPA Board Vice President

Kathy Hadley, WVOPA Board Secretary/Treasurer

Matt Parker, Wade Glaser, Chuck Sherman and Louie Kazemier, WVOPA Board Members