

October 6, 2026

Chair Lauren Sanchez and CARB Leadership
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: LCFS Temporary Pathways and Tier II Treatment for Intermediate Oilseed Crops

Dear Chair Sanchez and CARB Leadership,

On behalf of a broad group of stakeholders supporting the development, production, processing, and use of Intermediate Oilseed Crops, we thank the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for its continued consideration of these novel crops under the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). We particularly appreciate CARB staff's constructive engagement with industry and its announced intent to establish a temporary pathway framework for Intermediate Oilseed Crops while permanent Tier II pathways applications are submitted and reviewed.

The temporary pathway framework is an important and practical bridge that can provide near-term regulatory certainty, support responsible commercial investment, and allow novel low-carbon feedstocks to participate in the LCFS program while CARB completes the crop-, fuel-, and site-specific analysis required for permanent Tier II pathways. We encourage CARB to move promptly to publish the temporary pathway framework for public comment and to implement it in a manner that is transparent, consistent, and accessible across Intermediate Oilseed Crop feedstocks.

To support consistent implementation, we respectfully recommend that CARB adopt the following definition for Intermediate Oilseed Crops:

Intermediate Oilseed Crops are oilseed crops grown at a time when the land would otherwise lie fallow, idle or be planted to a non-harvested cover crop. These crops may be winter annuals, summer annuals, or other catch crops, and are integrated into a variety of agricultural systems, rotations, and growing practices, without creating demand for additional land. Intermediate oilseed crops provide feedstocks to produce low-carbon renewable fuels, renewable chemicals, and other biobased products.

This definition reflects the central production characteristic of intermediate crops: they are integrated between primary crop cycles and provide an additional source of low-carbon feedstock without requiring a dedicated primary-crop production window. A clear, crop-neutral definition will help applicants, growers, processors, fuel producers, and other stakeholders consistently understand eligibility and documentation expectations.

We further recommend that CARB immediately include the following crops that meet the Intermediate Oilseed Crops as selectable feedstocks in the Tier II pathway application process within the Alternative Fuels Portal (AFP):

- Camelina
- Carinata
- Domesticated pennycress
- Winter canola

Including these crops in AFP will provide a clear administrative pathway for applicants and will help ensure that the temporary pathway framework can transition efficiently to permanent Tier II review. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of Intermediate Oilseed Crops, and CARB should retain the flexibility to add other crops that meet the adopted Intermediate Oilseed Crops definition as agronomic systems and supporting data continue to develop. Examples include other domesticated brassica species (e.g., juncea), which are agronomically equivalent to winter canola, carinata, and camelina, exhibiting similar growth patterns, rotational fit, and land-use characteristics within existing agricultural systems.

CARB's recognition of Intermediate Oilseed Crops and development of a temporary pathway framework sends an important signal to growers, technology providers, processors, fuel producers, and investors. Timely implementation, a workable definition, and clear AFP eligibility will help translate that signal into responsible commercial activity that supports California's transportation decarbonization objectives.

Thank you again for CARB's consideration of intermediate crops category to create additional sustainable supply sources for low carbon intensity biofuels and for its continued engagement with stakeholders. We look forward to supporting CARB as it publishes and finalizes the temporary pathway framework and advances permanent Tier 2 pathways for these feedstocks.

Sincerely,

Joint Signatories in alphabetical order:

- Bayer Crop Science
- Bunge
- Cargill
- CoverCress Inc.
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Forever Green, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences
- Grapevine Energy
- Nufarm
- VISION Bioenergy Oilseeds
- Vylor Inc.