

Date: 3/7/2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Chris Hardy

Re: Support for SB 789

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources,

My name is Chris Hardy. I live in Ashland, Oregon and I am writing on behalf of our seed company, Hardy Seeds. Since 2015, we have been growing and selling heritage seed specifically adapted to climate challenges here in Oregon and beyond.

I am writing today in support of SB 789, which maintains current protections for the Willamette Valley's lucrative brassica vegetable seed industry.

We depend on access to a wide variety of brassica seed we receive from growers throughout the Pacific Northwest, especially from the Willamette Valley where innovative plant breeders and germ plasm that our partner growers have been working on, some for their entire lives.

Our own work in Oregon is focused on climate adapted varieties, especially those that use minimal to zero supplemental irrigation. Our customers, including seed contracts from companies on both East and West coasts, have zero tolerance for potential disease incidence, include issues related to contamination with genetically engineered varieties of same species.

As a small seed company, we are very concerned and always assessing issues related to seed-borne disease, and cross-contamination, and how this could impact our ability to produce high quality seed for the industry.

For these reasons, **I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 789** to ensure the

Willamette Valley stays one of the vegetable seed capitals of the world, a very special place for growing high-value seeds, and an economic powerhouse for our state.

Sincerely,

Chris Hardy  
Owner, Operator  
Hardy Seeds