

Submitter: Gary Kliewer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB789

March 8, 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: G. Kliewer, Long Shadow Fields

Re: Support for SB 789

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

My name is Gary Kliewer, and I live in Talent, OR, and I am writing on behalf of the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association and the Rogue Native Plant Partnership.

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

I grow heritage grains at small scale as part of a long-term effort to source crops that will adapt to climate change in Oregon. I also grow native species for seed harvest applied to regional habitat restoration. Farmers growing crops for seed in the Willamette Valley are our roll models, industry leaders, and economic foundations.

The Willamette Valley is one of the last remaining regions in the world suitable for large-scale vegetable specialty seed production, including the majority of the world's brassica seed supply. Increased and unregulated canola acreage will irreversibly damage this industry.

All Oregon seed growers are perpetually on alert against cross-contamination and pest spread. Once contamination happens, our seed cannot be sold on the global market, and we lose precious seed varieties that have been cultivated for generations to ensure food security.

SB789 is a wise extension of the current policy, enshrining the current protections and collaborative system in state law.

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,

G. Kliewer, Long Shadow Fields