

Submitter: Emily Platt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB789

Date: March 08, 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

Re: Support for SB 789

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

My name is Emily Platt and I live in Portland OR.

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

- 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. Over 90% of some brassica seed varieties, like cabbage, are grown in the Willamette Valley. Increased and unpinned canola acreage could irreversibly damage this industry.

- A recent assessment by non-partisan firm Highland Economics was unambiguous that the high-value brassica seed industry is worth far more to Oregon than low-value canola in terms of revenue and job creation. The assessment unequivocally underscores the need for permanent protections and also cites several canola alternatives that do not pose the same threat.

- o This economic assessment differs from past studies as it takes cross-contamination and economic harm into account, not just pest and disease pressures.

- In Oregon, we protect what's good, so it can keep being good – providing jobs, keeping the soil healthy, and ensuring a sustainable food future for Oregon and beyond.

- We are at a pivot point with protecting the Willamette for this key industry, and for the biodiverse seed varieties that growers all over the world depend on. We must extend the protections indefinitely and protect what's good. There is simply too much to lose. Here, as with so many public policies, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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,

Emily Platt, Ph.D.

Portland, OR