

Submitter: David Brewer
On Behalf Of: Pacific Northwest Canola Association
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB789

As a small farmer navigating the transition to a more regenerative form of agriculture on our family's land near The Dalles, I highly value all the tools in my crop rotation tool box and the freedom I have to choose those tools. I am sure that the growers in the Willamette Valley value the liberty to choose the right tool for their farm as much as I do.

Canola has been a very valuable addition to my farm in terms of farm income, disease management of our traditional wheat crops, soil health, wildlife and pollinator habitat, weed control and crop chemistry protection. Crop rotation and canola specifically has become the biggest tool in my tool box for making my no-till farming system profitable and agronomically sustainable.

As we heard in oral testimony today, the current system of pinning field locations in the Willamette Valley with collaboration between canola growers and specialty brassica seed growers facilitated by the ODA is working. The arbitrary limitation of canola to 500 acres in the entire 3.6 million acre Willamette Valley is not based on science. I encourage the committee to reject SB 789 and allow the growers of the Willamette Valley the freedom to grow the crops that fit their needs. If there needs to be limits on acres or the use of GMO varieties in the Willamette Valley to protect all growers, then let us work on that idea with an emphasis on science rather than the arbitrary acre limit based on fear. Much research has already been done on this issue.

I am a trained economist myself, I agree with the testimony about the economic study submitted to the committee. Clearly that study took a biased approach against canola production and can be largely ignored. On my small farm alone, I have produced between 200 and 350 acres of canola per year in most recent years which puts the 500 acre limit for all the farmers in the entire Willamette Valley in perspective. This past year, canola was my highest grossing crop at over \$1200/acre gross income.

Thank you for considering my written testimony.