

Submitter: Kristy Athens
On Behalf Of: Genuine Wallowa County LLC dba GWC Provisions
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

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

My name is Kristy Athens, and I am writing on behalf of Genuine Wallowa County LLC dba GWC Provisions in support of SB 789, which maintains current protections for the Willamette Valley's lucrative brassica vegetable seed industry.

GWC Provisions is a "food hub" in NE Oregon, one of a growing network of for- and nonprofit organizations in the state that directly support Oregon's agriculture industry, specifically its small farms. Think of it as a cross between a farmers market and a grocery store. This sector relies on our family-scale farms across the state. Allowing canola to be planted in the Willamette Valley could devastate a number of farms providing Oregonians with specialty crops, and also jeopardize its thriving seed industry.

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.

Thank you,
Kristy Athens
Owner, Genuine Wallowa County LLC