

Submitter: Nick Tichinin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB789

I founded Universal Seed Company in the Willamette Valley in 1989, recognizing the unique confluence of climate, soil, water and farmer ability. The company has grown from one man to 40 full time employees. Over the last 30 years of operation the company has generated several hundred million in gross revenue, nearly entirely from export sales. Those dollars have been cycled into the Oregon economy in the form of payroll, purchases, grower payments and taxes. Hybrid brassica seed production has been, and remains, a mainstay of the company.

Passing SB 789 is recognition of an economic fact for agriculture in the Willamette Valley- we have to coexist. This bill, which balances interests from conflicting crops, allows for a permanent framework in which the specialty seed companies can securely flourish, with an acceptable level of canola production allowed. The individuals who promote lifting restrictions on canola production are not interested in what is now a workable coexistence. They simply want to be able to do whatever they want, whenever they want, wherever they want, with no consideration of their neighbors. That is not the basis for a civil society.

Please support SB 789.

Sincerely,

Nick Tichinin
Universal Seed LLC