

Submitter: Sara Hubbe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB789

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Sara Hubbe. I was born and raised in Oregon, in the Willamette Valley, and I live in east Linn County between Scio and Lacombe on our family's farm.

I appreciate the opportunity to send written testimony in support of Senate Bill 789, which will maintain current protections for our Willamette Valley's brassica vegetable seed industry. I will be brief in my comments.

Given the fact that our valley here is one of the last remaining areas which is suitable for large-scale specialty seed production, and especially that we grow the majority of the world's brassica seeds, we need the continued protection that SB 789 will provide. Without this protection, our lucrative local brassica vegetable seed industry would be damaged.

Our high value brassica seed industry is worth far more to Oregon than low-value canola oil, both in terms of revenue and job creation, and there are several alternative oil seed crops which can be grown here that would not harm our brassica seed industry. Additionally, Rapeseed/Canola cultivation can be successful in numerous agricultural areas in Oregon where it won't endanger high-value seed crops with the risk of genetically engineered cross-contamination and pest/disease spread.

Apparently there are a few "politically well connected farmers" who are wanting to grow rapeseed/canola in the Willamette protected zone. This should not be allowed. These farmers must choose from a wide variety of other crops which will not harm this key seed industry which growers all over the world depend on.

In these times it is critical that we protect as many of the aspects of our local food economy as possible, and our brassica vegetable seed industry is a key one of these.

I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 789 to ensure that the Willamette Valley remains one of the vegetable seed capitals of the world, a very special place for growing high value seeds, and a powerful contributor to the economic security of Oregon.

Sincerely, and respectfully,  
Sara Hubbe