

Submitter: Elizabeth Voth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB789

Date: 3/10, 6:08am

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Elizabeth Voth

Re: Support for SB 789

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

I am an Oregonian dedicated to preserving the economic benefits of agricultural diversity.

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

Each week when I drive to work in Mt. Angel and on weekends when I visit family in Newberg I pass crop fields that change with the seasons. Many are planted with brassica varieties, some for seed and some for fresh markets.

Personally, my greatest concern is introducing crop seeds on a large scale that are genetically designed to withstand application of harmful weed control chemicals. As you know, escalating use of harsh herbicides degrades precious water quality and does permanent damage to our fragile wildlife.

I believe specialty crops and seasonal rotation are ways to keep soil, water, wildlife, and farmers secure for the future we share.

Please stand with local farmers against short-sighted profit-driven Big Ag. operations to conserve our natural resources.

Please support the current SB789 protections and extend this outstanding collaborative system as our permanent state law.