

Submitter: Keith Marx  
On Behalf Of: Marx Family Farms  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB789

March 10th, 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee and Senator Jeff Golden

From: Keith Marx, Owner Marx Family Farms

Re: OPPOSE SB 789

My name is Keith Marx, and along with my wife and family I run a diversified crop farm just west of Salem in the Willamette Valley. I have grown several different brassicas as part of my crop rotations, including turnips, radish, and canola. Having these rotations has been extremely beneficial to helping me control weeds and provide diversification to my cash flow.

I want to continue to have the option of growing canola in the future, and with a 500 acre cap there is no guarantee that there are enough acres available any given year to help meet the rotational acres needed for our farm. Just as Oregon State's research report states, in practice I have seen no differences in the weed, pest, or disease aspects of raising any of those crops. If anything, turnips and radish persist in the environment longer when it comes to volunteers, and turnips are definitely worse when it comes to disease susceptibility.

Overall, there is no reason canola should have restrictions placed on it the other two crops don't. I could plant as many acres as I want of turnips & radish without a permit or pinning, so the only real difference in brassica acreage on my farm is which brassicas it would be. And I certainly like the aspect with canola of being paid for my crop within 30 days as required by state law, particularly when interest rates are as high as they are. It can take up to 10 months (and in some cases longer) to get paid for turnips or radish.

Please oppose SB789.

Thank you for your time.