



Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members:

Please **vote YES on SB 789** to provide essential protections for high-value seed crops that have ensured stability and profitability for Willamette Valley seed growers, and access to the profitable global market for our seed sellers. **Rolling back these protections is bad for local, small businesses, and creates an unpredictable, unstable environment for seed growing that even impacts us in Southern Oregon.**

*I am a farmer and seed grower in Southern Oregon (Verdant Phoenix Farm) and I am part of the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association. As an Association, we are very concerned about cross-contamination and pest spread, because it cannot be reversed- it ruins our valuable products. This risk is a big deal to our seed industry, and is too great to gamble with. Once contamination happens, our seed cannot be sold on the global market. This means that all of the expenses, time and effort invested– saving seed the previous year, storing it, planting, watering, caring for the resulting plants, and then harvesting the seed – will be a total loss for farmers. We need protections so that our seed crops are valuable and we can support the local economy and our families.*

*If our seeds are contaminated, it means they are worth nothing and cannot be sold! This is absolutely devastating for small, Oregon farming businesses!*

We must extend the protections indefinitely and protect what's valuable to Oregonians. There is simply too much to lose- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. SB789 is a wise extension of the current policy. For these reasons, **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.

Sincerely,

**Rhianna Simes, M.S.Ed.**  
**Owner, Farmer**  
**Verdant Phoenix Farm**  
**Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association Board Member**

