

Submitter: Matthew Parker

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: SB789

10 . ORGANIC CANOLA IS BEING PRODUCED IN OREGON . passing this bill could end a farmers ability to produce organic canola .

11. Spring canola is a possible cropping option when there is a crop failure or winter die out in a grass seed field. . This past fall the rains came late and many of the grass seed fields struggled to regrow and establish. If more acres were available canola is a perfect crop option that farmers could use to have a profitable spring cropping option in the event of a winter crop failure.

12. No,irrigation is required.. canola requires no irrigation and can grow in a wide variety of environments and field and soil conditions.

In 2013 hb 2427 passed and provided 679,000\$ pTaxpayer dollars to OSU to study coexistence between canola and other brassica crops . OSU completed the study and reported to the legislature in 2018 . Conclusion of the study” The results of this research provide no reasons agronomical or biological that canola production should be prohibited in the Willamette valley when there are no restrictions on the production of other brassicaceae crops.”

Why do we not listen to our experts after we ask them to perform research and give their knowledge and expertise .

I asked Oregon department of agriculture if any problems had ever been reported from canola production in the valley ... The department has had no problems or conflicts documented in the last 10 years.

Canola requires a 3 mile isolation from other brassicas crops to be pinned and receive a permit to grow canola in the Willamette valley. This has been an issue and there's a process called an isolation encroachment agreement form that allows canola to be grown closer than the required 3 miles of distance isolation. The seed company growing the brassica seed crop and the canola grower must both sign this form to allow a canola grower to receive a canola growing permit. I have used this process many times with companies such as Lakeside ag, Universal seeds, and Barenbrug.

If canola production was truly a problem or issue it seems these companies would not sign isolation encroachment agreements and cease to coexist with canola growers!.

A public pinning system would greatly help this problem and make things way more transparent to farmers and the public..

There have been a couple of experiences where an isolation encroachment agreement could not be retained. And I had to plant turnips instead of canola which makes me less money due to a limited market and additional expenses of growing turnips versus canola.

In conclusion , with hands on experience growing canola and no problems reported or documented by ODA, And OSU completing an in depth study . I urge you to oppose sb 789 and let The markets dictate the production of brassica crops in the valley. And stop making canola a farmer vs farmer issue .

Thank you for your time