

Submitter: Michaela Hammer  
On Behalf Of: Humming Bee Nursery  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB789

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

My name is Michaela Hammer and I am writing on behalf of my business, Humming Bee Nursery, which has grown brassica seed on contract for the past two years.

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

The Willamette Valley is one of the last remaining regions in the world suitable for large-scale vegetable specialty seed production, including the majority of the world's brassica seed supply. I grow different varieties of brassica seed on contract as part of my small, certified organic nursery business, and I'm concerned that increased canola acreage could irreversibly damage my production and the industry as a whole. Canola cultivation can happen in many agricultural areas of Oregon where it will not endanger high-value seed crops with the risk of genetically engineered cross-contamination, and pest and disease spread. For many years, protections for high-value seed crops have ensured stability and profitability for Oregon seed growers, and access to the profitable global market for our seed sellers. Rolling them back is bad for business, and creates an unpredictable, unstable environment for seed growing.

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, a very special place for growing high-value seeds, and an economic powerhouse for our state.

Sincerely,

Michaela Hammer

Owner

Humming Bee Nursery