

Submitter: Becky Mundt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB789

Date: March 9, 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Becky Mundt

Re: Support for SB 789

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

My name is Becky Mundt and I live in Eugene, Oregon and/or I am writing on behalf of myself and the local market farmers and seed growers I cherish and purchase from for my gardens, feed crops and nursery stock.

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

As one of the last remaining regions in the world suitable for large scale specialty vegetable seed production, including a majority of the world's brassica seed supply (over 90% of all cabbage seed world wide is grown here) it is vital that we protect and ensure the future of this keystone of healthy food production for all the people of the world.

To jeopardize this important resource for food production for any reason is questionable, but to do so for the purpose of growing a less profitable and marginally important crop such as canola is simply unconscionable.

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. Over 90% of some brassica seed varieties, like cabbage, are grown in the Willamette Valley. Increased and unpinned canola acreage could irreversibly damage this industry.

The results of the recent economic assessment by non-partisan firm Highland Economics are unambiguous: The brassica seed industry is far more valuable to Oregon than the low-value canola industry, both in terms of revenue and job creation.

The assessment unequivocally underscores the need for permanent protections and also cites several canola alternatives that do not pose the same threat.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 789 and protect the future of the important Oregon

Specialty Vegetable Seed industry and the future of healthy brassical seed for all people.

Sincerely,

Becky Mundt
Eugene, OR 97402