

Submitter: John Locke
On Behalf Of: Locke Farms
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB789

Dear Senators

I am in opposition to senate Bill 789, the creation of a permanent cap of 500 acres of canola in the Willamette Valley. Living in Central Oregon and currently being in a drought my farming operation Locke Farms LLC has found the great value that canola could add to ones bottom line. Having lived in canola protection district. It was told to us in was put in place to protect the carrot seed industry, but currently I am working to try and change this rule to allow canola planting in our area. With the current endangered species act restrictions due the spotted frog and the current water situation has drastically limited the total amount of farm ground that I am currently able to farm, 200 acres out of 600 acres. The potential to have canola in my crop rotation permanently would help us to continue to be carrot seed producers, by allowing me to farm more acres an using the water savings from canola to water my carrot acres. With there being a local buyer that will take all that we can produce in the area. This not only puts more money in my pocket but more back into our community that has been taking the hit from the drought. With the current state laws we are able to get our payments from canola in a timely period. Putting limits on farms crop choices into law is very unwise, let the markets determine what is most valuable to it and those acres will be what is grown. Especially when most of the restrictions have no science behind them just big seed companies that want to control the playing field in each area. So I would strongly encourage you to not put this in place, protect the family farm by allowing choice in our crop rotations.

Sincerely

John Locke

Locke Farms LLC