

March 9, 2023

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the committee,**

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's most comprehensive general agricultural association, representing more than 6,500 farm and ranch families in Oregon who make up a significant part of our rural communities.

Oregon Farm Bureau is neutral on Senate Bill 789

Our 2023 policy book (10.705) states, *"We support the ability of the Oregon Department of Agriculture to regulate the production of oilseed crops to protect other seed production from cross-pollination, disease, and insects. We are opposed to an outright ban on oilseed production."*

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has established protected districts for the production of canola, a variety of rapeseed. Protected districts do not allow canola production except under special conditions. In the case of SB 798, the bill is specific to the Willamette Valley Protected District.

While the Oregon Farm Bureau remains neutral on this bill, we encourage the Oregon State Legislature to rely on the important research conducted by Oregon State University (OSU). In 2013, House Bill 2427 provided funding to assess the potential for co-existence between canola and other Brassicaceae seed crops in the Willamette Valley.

The report from OSU, completed in 2017, found there are no reasons, agronomic or biological, that canola production should be prohibited in the Willamette Valley when there are no restrictions on the production of other Brassicaceae crops. Additionally, pest issues unique to canola and compared to the other Brassicaceae crops were not found, regardless of differences among the crops monitored.

We have members growing canola who can testify to the importance of it as an economical rotational crop and other members who grow specialty seeds and still have concerns about cross-pollination.

Finally, our policy also states the following, (10.706), *"Rules and guidelines in the Certified Seed Production Handbook developed by OSU that are used to prevent the cross pollination of crops should be considered in any legislation adopted by the Oregon Legislature that would govern the planting of crops."*

Most of all Farm Bureau's policy and general philosophy supports using sound, peer reviewed science when making important decisions like this.