

Submitter: Matthew Parker

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: SB789

Chair helm vice- chair owens and Hartman , and members of the committee.  
My name is Matthew parker. I am a fourth generation grass seed, wheat,  
turnip's,clover and canola grower in the lebanon and Scio area of the Willamette  
valley. I am here today to oppose senate bill 789.

Canola is a valuable food crop. The oil is crushed from the seed for cooking oil or  
can also be used for biodiesel and animal feed supplement The canola meal which  
is the leftover product of crushing the seed for oil is used in almost every dairy farm  
operation in oregon. Hundreds of truckloads of canola meal are trucked from warden  
wa to oregon dairies every year. . By allowing more canola production it would allow  
trucking to be more efficient and allow trucks to haul products both directions.

The canola industry used to have a processor in Rickreall. This allowed all business  
to be kept in oregon but 500 acres of canola wasn't enough to keep the business in  
operation so it struggled to be profitable and had to close . 5000 acres or more of  
canola would have possibly kept that oregon business in operation.

Canola has many other great attributes

1. Great for pollinator and bee health . My beekeeper says having bees on  
canola virtually eliminates mite treatment in bee hives which is healthier for the bees  
and prevents colony collapse disorder. Bee hives actually build worker bee  
numbers in the hives two to three times faster than any other crop,the bees are  
pollinating .

2. No till farming is much easier with canola production in the rotation as  
canola suppresses weeds and promotes soil health and water infiltration and  
aeration. It also recycles soil nutrients to The top of the soil profile with its deep  
taproot which reaches nutrients deep in the soil profile which most crops can't access  
and use .

3. Canola doesn't require new growers to purchase any different  
equipment than what they already own. Canola can be grown and harvested with all  
the equipment that most farmers already own and use in their current operation.

4. Canola is a commodity crop . Farmers can sell canola almost 365 days  
a year which makes it easier for a farmer to keep,their cash flow and balance sheets  
on the positive side . On the other hand there are. l'll millions of pounds of grass  
seed sitting in farmer owned buildings because of a lack of market needs. This is a  
heavy burden on farmers because they pay all costs of production until grass seed is

sold and farmers don't receive a penny for 30 days after their seed leaves the grass seed storage facility.

5. Canola is a profitable rotation crop . I have personally tried many other crops such as meadowfoam ,flax,etc. canola easily produces 1200-2000\$ of gross income per acre at todays prices.

6. Agronomic benefits: the wheat or grass seed crop grown after raising canola often times is 30-50% higher production and better Quality after adding canola production to the field .

7. Spreads the timing of harvest for farmers. Canola is usually a little sooner to mature than grass seed so a farmer can start harvest sooner and not be so rushed to get everything done in such a short period of time which makes harvest much easier and less stressful for the farmer .

8. Seed cleaning is not required for canola which frees up more storage in the grass seed operations and makes cleaning operations much faster and more effecient for,grass seed.

9 . Canola volunteers are easily controlled and not very persistent in following crops. Due to softer seed. On the contrary I have grown radish and meadowfoam and I have to apply chemicals yearly to those fields which adds to cost by the farmer and extra chemical exposure to the environment

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