

Submitter: Chris Roehm

On Behalf Of: Square Peg Farm Inc

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

Measure: SB789

Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members:

The Willamette Valley is a special place for agriculture, in part, because so much vegetable seed is produced here. This seed is shipped all across the state, region, country, and world. Part of what makes this possible is the Canola-Free zone that ensures that brassica seeds for vegetable production don't become contaminated with pollen from canola production. My family has owned and operated Square Peg Farm in Forest Grove for the past 20 years, growing and selling fresh produce into the Portland market. Our business depends on a reliable supply of clean, dependable seed from which we grow our produce.

Now politically connected agribusiness wants to kill the protections that have helped to nurture the specialty seed industry that thrives in the valley so they can produce a commodity crop that grows all over the world. Please don't allow these few to profit at the expense of the many. Instead, vote YES on SB 789 and help protect the Oregon Specialty Seed industry and small, family farms like mine.

Thanks!

Chris Roehm
Co-owner and co-operator
Square Peg Farm, Inc.
Forest Grove, OR