

Submitter: Haile McIntosh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB747

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

My name is Haile McIntosh and I am a farmer from Portland. I am writing today to support SB 747. It is so important that we do everything we can to protect the groundwater from contamination. Groundwater Management Areas have already been designated by the state as having dangerous levels of contaminants. Not only does this hurt the people living here, taking away their assurance of clean drinking water, but it also hurts the environment and wildlife in the area. This bill has been carefully crafted to apply to farms with 200 acres or more, who likely already track their fertilizer application, and it is not an enforcement or penalty bill. This is simply to make sure ODA has the information to advise farmers on programs and best practices that would help them not only protect water and the land that cares for our very lives, but save money on inputs as well.

I am told to share how this personally impacts me, and of course it does, as a farmer and a human who needs water to continue being alive, but quite frankly, personal impact is beside the point. Caring for water is a responsibility we are all meant to share in, and it is long past the time we take it seriously, as our lives depend on it. Our relationships to water are violent and careless and our responsibilities have been long abandoned by too many of us. This - recording the possible damages done - is the least we could do for our life source. So we may develop better strategies to care for and be in reciprocity for all water gives to us.

It is all of our responsibility to protect our water. This is not something that we can take lightly and it makes sense to require more reporting in sensitive areas. Please pass SB 747.

Thank you,

Haile McIntosh
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