

Submitter: Devon Wells
On Behalf Of: Hood River County Farm Bureau
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:

I am a Pear, Cherry, Apple and Peach grower in Hood River County, as well as the President of the Hood River County Farm Bureau. On behalf of my company and all Hood River County Farm Bureau members, I ask you to please oppose SB 747.

I farm approximately 550 acres of land in Hood River County and am a 5th generation orchardist. The 7th generation is currently growing up on our farm. We have been farming some of the same land for over 120 years.

Fertilizer is one of the most expensive practices, besides labor, that we participate in to keep our crops and soil in healthy condition. We do not apply fertilizer to every field and every acre that we farm every year, which on its own creates a poor dataset for determining how many pounds per acre we use.

This bill does not account for our many various soil types, drainage situations, crop types, and application rates/frequency, as it is poorly written with no input from the agricultural community.

This issue deserves a robust, collaborative discussion with growers and experts, not a misguided, under-educated concept advanced by activists with no background in agriculture.

Legislators need to stop fighting against family farms and instead talk with us about reaching an organized, educated, results driven program. We are VERY interested in the sustainability and precision care of our farmlands, as we grow crops in the very soil that activists believe we are not taking care of.

Please vote no on SB 747. And work together with Oregon Agriculture to find solutions that meet the needs stated.

Sincerely,

Devon J. Wells
Walter Wells & Sons, LLC
President, Hood River County Farm Bureau