

February 3, 2025

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife.

I am Writing in opposition to Senate Bill 747 which would require annual reporting of fertilizer applications to DEQ for any grower with at least 200 acres of irrigated production.

As of 2022 Oregon is home to over 1,200 Century farm and Ranches. An Oregon Century Farm is a Farm that has been in the same family for at least 100 years. I am proud to have grown up on a Century Farm in the Silverton area. Farms in Oregon are operating sustainably, if it were not so we would not have Century Farms.

Oregon farmers know that caring for the soil and ecosystems around their farms is paramount to their own livelihoods. Oregon producers know how to protect their natural resources without being regulated into it. Their lives depend on it!

This bill as written creates a disadvantage to small family farms that farm over 200 acres but do not have the infrastructure or people in place to do the extra reporting. Where did the 200 acre number come from? Is a grower with 199 acres making better management decisions than a grower with 201 acres? The answer is NO! A lot more goes into fertilizer application decisions than whether or not a farm is irrigated and over 200 acres. Here is a list of a few things that Oregon growers are basing their decision on:

1. What is the crop?
2. What is the soil type?
3. What is the topography?
4. What was the previous crop?
5. What is the weather forecast?
6. What has the recent weather been?
7. Does the field have Drainage issues?
8. What is the soil test?
9. What is the yield goal?
10. Would multiple small applications be better than a single large application?

As you can see there are many factors that go into fertilizer application decisions and this list does not include whether or not the farm is 200 acres, or if it is irrigated.

Farmers in Oregon do not need more legislation to make proper fertilizer application decisions! They are already doing it!

Thanks for your time,

Clinton Kuenzi