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SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDFIRE

Subject: Support of SB 747

Dear Senate Committee

My family and my farm families oppose SB 747

I take it to heart when being accused of mismanaging our invaluable farm ground and crops based on a non-rural, misconception about fertilizer use on farms.

Fertilizer is a very expensive input for farms, so application to a crop is measured by value, need, and best practices to achieve a quality product. Rates alone cannot determine over application, and there is no standardized guidance on rates based on the variety of factors that impact nutrient needs and uptake. For example, Agronomic rates vary even between different varieties of the same crop; which makes the drafted concept reflect a lack of understanding of both crop nutrition and groundwater impacts. Secondly, the 200 acres mentioned in the bill is an arbitrary number with no connection to specific data or evidence.

Take City/Urban homeowners, when added together equaling a span of 200 acres, could easily contribute to over applications by fertilizing their lawns and gardens; which can make a huge impact on groundwater within a small city or urban area. In addition to fertilizers, contamination of surface and ground water can be associated with other factors such as runoff from streets, parking lots, garbage, and an overflow of sewer systems.

Based on the fact that there are many more contributors to possible contaminated runoff or leaching into ground and surface water than just the stewards of farm lands; what is being proposed is a program that would not yield accurate information and put excessive burden on farms and ranches. This issue deserves more discussion with producers and experts, not a misguided concept put together by urban legislators who have no background in agriculture

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Pavlicek', written over a horizontal line.

Lori Pavlicek

4 B Farms