

February 3, 2025

Re: OPPOSITION to SB 747

Chair Golden and Committee Members,

I am writing to you today on behalf the agricultural industry who utilizes and stewards fertilizer to maximize economic production, protect the environment and contribute to the states revenue.

- Much of the industry utilizes a practice called the 4 **R**'s to make fertility decisions about their crops and land. Applications are professionally scrutinized to deliver the **right** source, rate, time and place of nutrition.
- Fertilizers are a very expensive input with costs skyrocketing in recent years. Producers are already disincentivized from applying more than is needed. Landowners utilize additive technologies to their fertilizers that enhance efficiency and lower rates. Additionally, these technologies reduce the potential of environmental loss in terms of volatility (atmospheric loss) and leaching (loss through the soil).
- Fertilizer rates vary widely based on crop and soil type, weather, and a list of other factors. Rates alone cannot determine overapplication, and there is no standardized guidance on rates based on the variety of factors that impact nutrient needs and uptake. Agronomic rates vary even between different varieties of the same crop.
- The concept as drafted reflects a lack of understanding of both crop nutrition science and groundwater impacts.
- 200 acres is an arbitrary number with no connection to data or evidence.
- What is being proposed here is a multi-million dollar program that would not yield the information suggested in the bill language.
- This issue deserves a robust discussion with producers and experts.

Thank you for your time and service to all constituents including farmers!

Jeff Freeman

Marion Ag Service Inc.

jefff@marionag.com