

Submitter: Lindsay Goldberg
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 Lindsay Goldberg and I am a farmer from Multnomah County. I am writing today to support SB 747. It is so important that we do everything we can to control the groundwater contamination in sensitive areas. 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 impacts the environment and wildlife in the area, and threatens the ability of land to remain productive. 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 quality but save money on inputs.

As a small scale farmer, growing a diverse crop plan, I track my fertilizer application amounts in order to make sure my plants are receiving adequate nutrition throughout the growing season. I usually get a yearly soil test and follow recommendations of a soil consultation. Soil tests come with a cost, but can save the farmer money in the long term by telling the farmer exactly what the soils to produce a successful crop. Thus, the farmer does not over apply. At my scale, I work with pounds of fertilizer per bed. Most large scale producers would apply fertilizer by the acre. It is likely a known amount depending on the crop. While I grow 50 or so varieties of plant, most large producers are growing acres of the same plant. Any fiscally responsible farmer would already be keeping track of how much fertilizer they are applying because it is a huge expense. If I were operating in a sensitive area, I would be fully willing to report my fertilizer application rates because I already know how much I am applying and I care about safe and clean drinking water for everyone.

Please pass SB 747.

Thank you,

Lindsay Goldberg

Fawn Lily Farm

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