

Submitter: Katie Kenagy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB747

We are farmers in Hubbard, OR and OPPOSE SB 747.

The nature of this proposal highlights some major knowledge gaps about farming:

1) Fertilizer is expensive. Farmers aim to apply fertilizer exactly as needed: no more, no less. Some years fertilizing up to full recommendation is difficult because it's so expensive. Overages? It's laughable to think this is really a problem. I encourage you to come see our fertilizer bills!

2) Fertilizer application generally comes at the recommendation of an agronomist, who is making suggestions that are timely, specific to the soil needs, and customized to target soil deficiencies: no more, no less. There is really no such thing as farmers routinely or negligently over fertilizing. An over fertilized field (by accident or error) is a liability. It does no good to anyone. Please, find a farm to visit if you think otherwise.

The terminology is unclear:

- 1) What does fertilizer mean? Synthetic fertilizer only? Sea kelp? Manure? Compost? Minerals? Salt? The term "fertilizer" is a buzz word. I encourage you to visit farmers and agronomists all over the state to understand what that term means.
- 2) What about 200 acres not used for farming? Someone who owns land, but makes no money from farming is exempt? What a strange and arbitrary distinction.
- 3) What about homeowners who can walk into Home Depot and apply fertilizer with no experience and expertise? Why regulate the farmers who have a vested interest, understanding and knowledge, yet avoid the vast majority of the population with wide access and low understanding?

If there is an environmental worry or concern, farmers will be the first ones affected. Our paycheck depends on healthy soils and waters. If there's a problem, let's 1) name that problem and 2) involve farmers in the solution. We're a smart hard-working and resourceful bunch, as an industry. If there is a problem-- Let's see it! Lay it on us. We're the first ones ready to help!

This looks like phony environmentalism that lives off buzz words, paperwork and fines, but doesn't really DO anything. Except hurt farmers. Again.

This is arbitrary and lacks understanding.

We strongly OPPOSE SB 747.

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