

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

Dear Committee Members,

As a family farmer in Northeastern Oregon, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 747. My family takes pride in the stewardship with which we manage our farm, and recognize the importance of protecting groundwater quality. However, this ill-conceived bill will have little, if any, effect on groundwater quality. Rather, it would squander public resources and unduly burden farmers.

The concept behind SB 747 was obviously not informed by crop science, nor conceived with the input of growers. Proper fertilizer application rates are not simply a number that the state can easily specify. They are influenced by numerous factors, including crop type, various soil characteristics, weather, crop vigor, application timing, cropping history, flood risk, etc.. The farmer has intimate knowledge of these factors, and is strongly incentivized by economic pressures to apply fertilizer products judiciously, so is therefore in the best position to make good application decisions.

The burden of ever-increasing regulation bears heavily on small family farms like mine. It is one of the major factors driving the consolidation of small family farms into large corporate farms. Please don't add to the burden borne by small farmers with a regulation that is irrelevant to the issue at hand. This issue deserves a robust, collaborative discussion with growers, not a harebrained concept advanced by activists that are clearly operating outside their wheelhouse.

Please vote against SB 747.

Respectfully,
Jed Hassinger