

January 31, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Julie Voorhees

Re: Support of Senate Bill 747 - Fertilizer Use Reporting

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire,

Today I am sick with pneumonia, but I am providing testimony about nitrate pollution because it is so important to me, my family, and my community. I have a contaminated well and live in the Boardman area.

I support the fertilizer reporting bill, Senate Bill 747, because fertilizer is a huge source of nitrate pollution in wells where I live.

My mom has COPD, and my husband and I live on her property and are her caregivers. She is 88 and struggles with breathing. I have learned that nitrate pollution can cause respiratory problems, and our well tests at 48 mg/L—almost five times the safe level. We have to use bottled water. My mom has lived in the area since 1955, so while we can't prove that nitrate has affected her health, she has been exposed for a very long time.

In addition to my mom's health, I worry about our animals. Just like many other people in the area we have had a lot of cancer in our animals.

We need this bill to pass for all the health reasons—human and animal. I feel the polluters are taking advantage of our health because they have tons of money and more power.

This issue reminds me of the story of David and Goliath. The community is David against Goliath businesses who are polluting us. I know it will take time but we can win this fight with your help in the legislature. Please support Senate Bill 747.

Sincerely,
Julie Voorhees
Boardman, OR