

January 31, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
From: Well User 1
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,

I have a contaminated well, have lived in Boardman for 20 years, and worked in construction. **I am writing to support the fertilizer reporting bill, Senate Bill 747.**

My well is testing in the 30s for nitrate. I am 80 years old, and we can't have this water situation for the rest of our lives. Buying bottled water is unsustainable. Drilling new wells might not work if the contamination is ongoing. I worry about health issues. I've tried filtration systems, but the nitrate is so high that it's not doing enough to bring it down to a safe level. Cooking is a hassle, but we make do.

What we need to do is stop the nitrate pollution. That's why I support Senate Bill 747, the fertilizer reporting bill. Fertilizer from large irrigators is one of the largest sources of nitrate pollution in the Lower Umatilla Basin.

Currently, we don't know how much fertilizer is being put on fields. The more fertilizer put on the ground, the worse our water gets. Senate Bill 747 would require large-scale irrigators to report their fertilizer use once a year and for the Oregon Department of Agriculture to monitor fertilizer use. This would help us know where the pollution is coming from.

I would love to be able to safely drink the water out of my well again. We have to focus on all the sources of nitrate pollution in order to clean up the groundwater. **Fertilizer is a source of nitrate the state has to address.**

Bottled water delivery will not last forever, so we have to stop the pollution of our wells.

I also need to say that my neighbors report that they can't risk saying these things. Even though I am retired, I want to remain anonymous.

I urge you to stop the pollution of our wells and support fertilizer reporting. Support Senate Bill 747.

Sincerely,
Well User 1,
Boardman, Oregon