

February 2, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
From: Brenda Flores
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 lived in Oregon all my life and I am concerned for my fellow Oregonians who have contaminated wells. I am writing to urge you to support the fertilizer reporting bill, Senate Bill 747.

Senate Bill 747 will require large scale irrigators to report their fertilizer usage. It's important we begin to monitor and gather data so we can see how much of the fertilizer is polluting our natural water. Once we have more data, it would help the Department of Agriculture to come up with a solution for the nitrate contamination. We need larger operations to be held accountable for the damages they have created to our drinking water.

It's alarming that Oregon does not collect data on fertilizer use especially when there's many rural Oregonians dealing with nitrate contamination. It's also frightening that so many people's health is being affected as well as our livestock. The members of our community should not be afraid to utilize their own water.

The cost of finding alternative drinking water options such as buying bottled water regularly or investing in treatment systems is unsustainable. We need a different and effective solution and SB 747 will help us create that.

Please help rural Oregonians by supporting Senate Bill 747 so we can be one step closer to clean water.

Sincerely,

Brenda Flores
Stanfield, Oregon