

February 3, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Well User 5

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 am a well user, and live outside of Boardman. **I am writing to comment on Senate Bill 747 to track fertilizer use.**

I am testifying anonymously because I am concerned about pressure. I can tell you about a dozen people in the area that have been threatened that their job is at risk for speaking on this issue.

I am originally from the Willamette Valley, have lived in Boardman for about 18 years, and work in the medical field. My family relies on well water. I learned about the nitrate contamination in 2022 when they tested my well. My well tests are in the 40s, and my water is not safe to drink. We are now getting bottled water. The jugs of water are inconvenient but manageable. But my older parents, who are also on a well, have difficulty with the big jugs, and I have to help them. The state RO system offers just a few gallons of water, so we still need to rely on bottled water. We are supposed to keep up with the maintenance, but because the nitrate is so high, the filters need to be replaced regularly. Since the nitrate levels fluctuate so much, we can't really trust the water that comes out.

I have grandkids to worry about. I am constantly running behind the kids, making sure they drink bottled water. I am also concerned about our animals. We're raising expensive mares and baby calves. Animals are dying without known causes. They are healthy, and then, for no known reason, they die. But I can't do bottled water for them.

I support Senate Bill 747 because nitrate from fertilizer is one of the largest sources of pollution to our wells. The bill will help us understand the situation and where nitrate pollution is coming from. We have a really high water table and sandy soil so monitoring fertilizer use is important to protecting our water.

Sincerely,

Well User 5

Boardman, Oregon