

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

Subject: Support for SB 747 – Protecting Communities from Fertilizer Pollution

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Rain, and I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 747 because it is a critical step toward protecting communities from fertilizer pollution and advancing environmental justice in Oregon.

Low-income and rural communities are disproportionately affected by fertilizer runoff and nitrate-contaminated drinking water. In places like Morrow and Umatilla Counties, families have been forced to rely on bottled water because their wells are unsafe. SB 747 will provide much-needed transparency on fertilizer use, helping the state identify pollution sources and protect water quality.

Communities facing the cumulative impacts of industrial pollution need stronger protections, not continued exposure to toxic contaminants. SB 747 is a common-sense measure that ensures state agencies have the tools to prevent pollution before it happens, rather than forcing communities to deal with the consequences later.

Environmental justice means making sure public agencies serve all Oregonians, not just polluters. By requiring large agricultural operations to report their fertilizer use, SB 747 ensures that scientific data guides decision-making, so the state can take proactive steps to prevent harm.

I urge you to support SB 747 to protect drinking water, clean air, and public health, especially for the communities most at risk.

Sincerely,
Ben Rain
Eugene