

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

I am opposed to SB 747 because it doesn't help any part of the environment. It does however

—Burden landowners with unnecessary time-consuming paperwork.

—Waste tax payer money on tracking, correlating this unnecessary data. This would involve several employees, computers, office space.

—Infringe on property owners privacy by collecting this unnecessary data.

Agriculture involves large capital expenditures and a very small profit margin. Many different types of agriculture enterprises will lose money at least 1 year out of 5. They have no control over the commodity prices which are vulnerable to government interference, weather extremes, high input prices such as fuel, etc. Landowners have no desire to overapply fertilizer because it's very expensive and would injure their crops. It's only cost-effective to apply less than a maximum amount. They take soil and crop samples to determine the exact amounts needed for various soils and conditions. Many can't even afford to put on the recommended levels so they under fertilize. Over fertilizing would be like running an extra 10 gallons of fuel onto the ground when you fill up your car. Stupid waste, right?

Applying some fertilizer is good for the environment. It enables the soil to support more, healthier plants which play into the life cycles of everything from bugs to birds to deer. We currently have a field that the agronomist did soil samples on and recommended fertilization. He didn't believe it would grow anything otherwise because of the poor soil fertility. With the application, the soil would have a better pH, smaller clod sizes, and be more fertile.

Farmers and ranch owners are all ready putting in over 40 hours per week. They don't need additional paperwork or time issues or expenses.

The logistics of trying to analyze the data on all the private land in this state, not paved over with all your environmentally friendly cement and pavement is unfathomable. There are many different soil families and types of soil in Oregon. There are also many different weather conditions affecting all those types and multitudes of different plants with unique mineral requirements that could be planted on each type of soil. Think of many hundreds of thousands of different scenarios. There's over 9000 square miles just in Malheur county. That would be a logistic nightmare just to duplicate, analyze, and record what the landowners already analyzed to be the most beneficial in a cost-effective way.

People in agriculture survive by being self-sufficient and independent. The last thing they want is an invasion of their privacy for no good purpose which is what this is. You're messing with the largest industries in Oregon that contribute the most to the

economy of this state as well as bring the ones that pay the property taxes that keep all the local communities services funded. SB 747 is a poorly thought out waste of taxpayer money that alienates major industries and accomplishes nothing for the environment.