

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

I urge you to support the passage of SB747. As a farmer in Marion County, it is about time that farmers take responsibility for their practices and ensure that they are not over-fertilizing their fields. As a resident of Marion County, we have had our well water tested, and it shows an alarming amount of nitrates. This isn't just a problem for me, but for all well users up and down the Willamette Valley that share the same aquifer. High nitrate levels in drinking water cause birth defects, thyroid issues, and cancer. What causes these high nitrate levels? The over-application of nitrogen fertilizers. Of course, this bill is not a perfect solution to the problem, but it is a start and a tool to monitor and see where and what is contributing to our nitrate water problem. It is not overburdening for farmers to report how much, and when they are applying fertilizers, as farmers already record this information for various reasons. So please be responsible for the health of your constituents and support the passage of SB747,