

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

I am opposed to SB747 as written. I recognize that groundwater pollution is a major concern for everyone's health and quality of life. Focusing on farms of 200 acres and larger is not a solution to the current groundwater pollution that exists around the state. There are basically two type of material that could all be classified as fertilizers. There are those that are applied strictly for crop enhancement (ie: commercial dry and liquid fertilizers) and materials that are applied to farmland mostly for the purpose of disposal of waste materials (ie: dairy manure, municipal sewage sludge, and factory biproduct).

My experience as a farmer is that most farms applying commercial fertilizers are generally applying to each specific crop the least amount of fertilizer needed for a desirable harvest. Commercial fertilizers are expensive and motivate farmers to not over apply them. Farmers who apply excess commercial fertilizers and chemicals on a regular basis will not remain in business due to the thin margins they operate under.

The application of waste and biproduct materials is many times motivated the disposal, in hopes they will go away. These materials are generally applied in the largest amounts allowed by law or not causing intolerable crop damage.

It is the safe disposal and application of waste and byproduct materials that needs to be focused on instead of number of irrigated acres farmed by an agricultural entity.