



February 3, 2025

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, Members of the Committee

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 747

On behalf of the Oregon Seed Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 747.

The Oregon Seed Council is a trade organization that advocates for seed farmers, marketers, brokers, researchers, and others involved in the Oregon seed industry from when the seed is planted to when the seed ultimately makes it to the hands of consumers. Through our membership, the Oregon Seed Council represents approximately 1,300 grass, legume, and specialty seed growers in Oregon.

The Oregon Seed Council strongly opposes Senate Bill 747, which would require every landowner in the state with more than 200 acres of irrigated agricultural land to register and annually report fertilizer use, with a goal of having the Oregon Department of Agriculture “identify persons who are overapplying fertilizer” and impose civil penalties for violation.

The bill was crafted without intimate knowledge of the agriculture industry. There is no universal or standardized guidance on fertilizer application. This bill does not recognize that fertilizer rates, needs, and application will vary year-to-year, by soil-type, and are dependent upon the crop being grown.

Requiring producers to report raw fertilizer use data disregards the complexity of applications, creating an inherently false narrative implying that there is a one-size-fits all approach to fertilizer application. Or worse, it implies that the agricultural community, who are the stewards of our land, would apply inputs to their land haphazardly. This could not be further from the truth.

Our members work closely with Oregon State University (OSU), the United States Department of Agriculture, agronomists, crop consultants, and other experts on research, for trials on crops, and on a number of agronomic needs, including the application of fertilizer.

In fact, Oregon commodity commissions invest a significant amount of their revenues to support OSU to advance research to help the industry be more efficient, effective, and support a healthy environment.

Each year, in collaboration with the Oregon research community, growers review research, attend continuing education events, seminars, and more to ensure their use patterns are appropriate for their needs.

In addition, fertilizer inputs are expensive, and our farmers are producing products for food and fiber on tight margins. There is no incentive for growers to overapply inputs, and as stewards of



the land, they work diligently to ensure the health and viability of their crops, soils, water quality, and the overall health of the environment. Their land is their livelihood.

Finally, the Oregon Seed Council and our members are disappointed to see that this measure was drafted without consultation of the industry it proposes to regulate. We would welcome conversations to help connect bill sponsors to agricultural practices.

The Oregon Seed Council urges the committee to reject SB 747.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Chuinard".

Megan Chuinard
Executive Director
Oregon Seed Council