

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

Dear Chair Golden and members of the Senate Committee for Natural Resources and Wildfire,

My name is Denver Pugh and I am a sixth generation farmer in the Shedd are of Linn County where my family grows crops for seed production as well as hazelnuts. I'm urging you today to oppose SB 747.

I honestly have questions as to why you think that implementing mandatory fertilizer reporting is necessary. Has there been any recent findings that over application of fertilizers has been taken place? Have you asked around to agricultural groups if this has been happening or a problem? Have you seen an influx in nitrates or other fertilizers in our water systems?

Fertilizers are extremely expensive, especially in the last 5 years the prices for some fertilizers have doubled. Making it one of my top three expenses on my farm with nearly 30% of all my expenses going towards fertilizers. With this said, I have been very diligent in making sure I am not over applying and that I am on target with my applications. In fact, I've invested a considerable amount of money in new precision application technology so that I am specifically not over applying because of the cost of these fertilizers. Along with this precision applicator, I follow the researched recommendations done by USDA ARS and OSU Crop Science departments on their fertilizer application rates. This long standing research has been proven to provide application rates to the farmer so they are applying what the plant/crop needs and with minimum to no excess. Therefor limiting excessive use applications. And I know, most farmers are doing very similar things to control and limit their fertilizer use, simply because of the high cost of fertilizers.

So, again, I just have to ask why do you feel this mandatory reporting is necessary? This is will just be one more thing farmers are going to have to set time aside on their already busy schedules to sit down and fill out a reporting. And what for? Does the State have any money to process all these reports? Who will be in charge of all these records? ODA? Do they have the employees to track this?

If it were me on this committee, I would vote this down and instead look for a way to help the farmers so that we all can benefit from the technology of costly precision farming equipment. How about instead of spending money on a reporting system you use that money in the form of tax breaks or grants to farms who can't afford

precision application equipment instead of penalizing them. Just a thought.

Please vote SB 747 down and instead, look at helping the farmers not hurt them more.

Thank you,

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