

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

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

My name is Meredith Bell and I am a wine grape farmer in Oregon City, OR. I am writing today to support SB 747. It is so important that we do everything we can to control the groundwater contamination in sensitive areas. Groundwater Management Areas have already been designated by the state as having dangerous levels of contaminants. Not only does this hurt the people living here, taking away their assurance of clean drinking water, but it also impacts the environment and wildlife in the area, and threatens the ability of land to remain productive. This bill has been carefully crafted to apply to farms with 200 acres or more, who likely already track their fertilizer application, and it is not an enforcement or penalty bill. This is simply to make sure ODA has the information to advise farmers on programs and best practices that would help them not only protect water quality but save money on inputs.

This personally impacts me because it's vital for our community and businesses to have access to clean and safe drinking water, not to mention the ecological importance of clean water.

Farmers:

Do you live in a groundwater management or otherwise sensitive area?

How would loss of clean and safe drinking water impact you or your farm business?

How do you normally track and keep records on your fertilizer application?

Are you willing to report to the state on your fertilizer application if you were operating in a sensitive area?

Community Members:

Do you live in a groundwater management or otherwise sensitive area?

How would loss of clean and safe drinking water impact you?

It is all of our responsibility to protect our water. This is not something that we can take lightly and it makes sense to require more reporting in sensitive areas. Please pass SB 747.

Thank you,

Meredith Bell
Est Wines
Leland Vineyard