

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

February 4, 2024

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

Re: In support of S.B. 747

My name is Gretchen Valido and I live in Bend. I write today in support of S.B. 747. As you're aware, Oregon's groundwater contamination is impacting one of our state's most vital, precious resources, clean water. Farmers, residents, and wildlife all depend on keeping our water resources clean and free of unhealthy, even dangerous contaminants.

Groundwater Management Areas have been designated by the state as having dangerous levels of contaminants. S.B. 474 applies to farms of 200 acres or more. It is very important that these farms track their fertilizer applications so the state can monitor and advocate for best practices to maintain optimal growing conditions for healthy food and forage production—and keep our drinking water healthy.

I live near the Deschutes River and it is extremely important to me that it remain a clean river free from pollutants and runoff that would jeopardize drinking water, fish and other wildlife that depend on the river's safety. Many people utilize the river for recreation and outings along the river trail. Children love to splash and swim, and others have fun tubing. It is also a source of irrigation water for large and small farms.

Many people depend on this and other Oregon rivers, other water bodies, and groundwater for their drinking water. Oregon's waters need to remain clean and pure for all of us. Farmers need to employ best stewardship practices such as just-enough-and-no-more fertilizer use, especially in sensitive areas that would dishonor and degrade our clean water sources by using them for convenient waste and fertilizer runoff disposal.

I want the Oregon Department of Agriculture to have relevant, complete information to help farmers be aware of and use best practices. This will help farmers protect water quality and also save money on fertilizer inputs—a win-win situation for them and all of us.

Please pass S.B. 747 to protect Oregon's groundwater with better reporting requirements in sensitive areas. I believe farmers value this benefit, too. Let's work

together to keep Oregon a wonderful place to farm and live.

Thank you,  
Gretchen Valido  
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