

My name is Aimee Stone and I fully support SB 747 as an integral step in protecting public health for residents who have been exposed to elevated nitrate contamination in their drinking water for decades. While this bill would not implement any regulations curbing the application of synthetic fertilizers, it would ensure transparency in their fertilizer use and its impact on our drinking water. Communities across our state are facing the consequences of rising nitrate levels in their drinking water, which is a consequence of excess fertilizer seeping into groundwater. Residents who are forced to rely on contaminated wells puts them at risk of serious health conditions, including cancer, birth defects, and blue baby syndrome. Despite these health risks, we do not have basic data on how much synthetic fertilizer is being applied, leaving regulators and the public in the dark about the full scale of this issue.

This bill provides a simple, commonsense solution by requiring large agricultural operations to report their fertilizer use so the state can track its impact on our groundwater. Agricultural operations, many of whom have submitted testimony in opposition to this bill, benefit from this lack of oversight because without this data, they cannot be held accountable for contaminating our groundwater and jeopardizing the health of residents who have been chronically exposed to unsafe drinking water for decades. Everyone deserves access to clean, safe drinking water and a government that works to protect them, not one that allows powerful interests to hide the harm that they are causing. I urge you to listen to the impacted communities who are dealing with the consequences of decades of inaction. I urge you to fight for their right to safe water. I urge you to support this senate bill 747.