

Submitter: kate perle  
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 Water:

I'm Kate Perle, a farmer on the outskirts of Eugene and am writing today to support SB 747. Groundwater issues are central to food production and the protection of both the quantity and quality of this resource are imperative for producers and consumers alike. 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.

We know that farmers are experts on their fields and already have detailed plans for fertilizer application. This bill is to make sure that farmers have all the information they need to make decisions for their farms and ecosystems and get them better access to ODA technical assistance based on real data.

This personally impacts me because my small farm relies on groundwater. Aquifers do not respect property lines and what my neighbors apply to their soil ends up in my water. Without accurate data collected it becomes impossible to address the threat to us all. Precise application of soil amendments on my farm is thrown awry if the water I use to irrigate with is chemically laden. I would welcome the opportunity to report fertilizer usage if I were farming in a designated Groundwater Sensitive Area. More information leads to better remediation.

Protecting our shared resources to assure resilience and continued productivity is uncumbent on us all. 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,

Kate Perle  
Small is Beautiful farmstand

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