

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of SB 747, a bill that would require owners of at least 200 acres of irrigated agricultural land to report fertilizer application to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. As a resident of Oregon, I believe this is a necessary step toward protecting public health, increasing transparency, and ensuring the responsible use of our natural resources.

Currently, there is no penalty for excessive water use, and no mandatory reporting on fertilizer application. This lack of oversight has led to serious environmental and public health concerns. Excess synthetic fertilizer use contributes to nitrate contamination in our groundwater, which is linked to severe health issues such as cancer, birth defects, and other long-term illnesses. Communities across Oregon are already suffering from water contamination, and we must take action to prevent further harm.

SB 747 does not place any additional burdens on farmers beyond simple reporting. It does not restrict their ability to farm or impose any new regulations on fertilizer use. It only requires transparency—something that is sorely lacking in our current system. By implementing this reporting requirement, we can collect crucial data that will allow us to better understand and address pollution sources, ultimately protecting Oregon's residents and water supply.

Oregonians deserve clean water. We deserve to know what is being put into our environment, especially when it has a direct impact on our health. I urge you to support SB 747 and take this important step toward accountability and transparency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Selby