



CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY RIVERS.

February 5, 2025

To: Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Kelly Campbell and I am the policy director at Columbia Riverkeeper. Columbia Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization with a mission to restore and protect the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Columbia Riverkeeper has over 25,000 supporters and members in Oregon.

Columbia Riverkeeper supports SB 747 to get the facts on fertilizer as a common sense step to gather needed information on fertilizer application.

Overapplication of synthetic fertilizers pollutes both groundwater and surface waters, including the Columbia River and its tributaries, causing harmful algal blooms, harming vital aquatic species and wildlife. Surface runoff of fertilizer causes harm to ecosystems, and negatively impacts our fishing, recreation, and tourism industries.

Overapplication of synthetic fertilizers also affects public health, as many thousands of Oregonians are exposed to nitrate contamination of their drinking water sources. Nitrate can cause serious health problems like Blue Baby Syndrome, gastrointestinal cancers, thyroid problems, birth defects, and more.

SB 747 represents a step in the right direction: Information is power. Gathering data is necessary to assess the problem. This data will then enable state agencies to work with growers by offering technical support and education services where necessary, in order to use fertilizer more efficiently and reduce agricultural pollution of Oregon's drinking water resources. I urge you to vote yes on SB 747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Campbell, Policy Director

HOOD RIVER OFFICE
P.O. Box 950
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 387-3030

PORTLAND OFFICE
1125 SE Madison St, 103A
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 432-8927

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®

www.columbiariverkeeper.org info@columbiariverkeeper.org