

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

My name is Amber Schat-Kenig and I am an Ag and Natural Resources Consultant and aspiring small farmer from Beaverton. I am writing today to support SB 747. It is so important that we do everything we can to control the groundwater contamination in sensitive areas. 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: I am looking to purchase farmland and there is no telling what the groundwater conditions are on a new site unless there has been past well monitoring requirements. I care about the land greatly and hope to steward my future farm property in a manner which minimizes inputs, treats any runoff, and employs best management practices when it comes to water quality and recharge. My family will have to drink that water and anyone around us also impacts the quality with their actions, especially larger, more conventional type ag producers.

It is all of our responsibility to protect our water. 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,

Amber Schat-Kenig

80 Sw 131st Ave Beaverton, OR 97005