

Submitter: Sue Nackoney
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 Sue Nackoney, and I farm in Boring, Oregon. 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.

We see threats to health of humans and ecosystems all around us when groundwater and drinking water is contaminated. I can not imagine finding out that my groundwater was contaminated with chemicals, like the "forever chemicals" that have destroyed much farmland in Maine and other locations and is currently in the city of Vancouver's drinking water. I lost a very dear friend to aggressive pancreatic cancer whose farmland was later found to be contaminated with the PFAs or "forever chemicals". Farmers need to know that their actions potentially affect many lives. As a certified organic farm I keep records of the location, types and weight of every fertilizer added to my fields. I would be happy to report this to anyone.

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,

Sue Nackoney

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