

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

My name is Matthew Brady and I am a fifth-generation family farmer in Azalea Oregon. I produce both hay and pasture for my sheep on irrigated farmland in Douglas County. Fertilizer is a very expensive input, with costs skyrocketing in recent years which disincentivizes me from applying more than is needed. Fertilizer rates vary widely based on crop and soil type, weather, other agronomic practices (such as cover cropping), and a host of other factors. Rates alone cannot determine over-application, and there is no standardized guidance on rates based on the variety of factors that can impact nutrient needs and uptake. Agronomic rates vary even between different varieties of the same crop. The concept as drafted reflects a glaring lack of understanding of both crop nutrition science and groundwater impacts; this is simply bad policy. 200 acres is an arbitrary number with no connection to actual impacts. What is being proposed is a multi-million dollar program that would not yield the information suggested in the bill language, nor be relevant in terms of addressing issues with groundwater contamination. This issue deserves a robust, collaborative discussion with growers and experts (and growers as experts), not a misguided concept advanced by activists with no background in agriculture. Family farms and ranches are struggling under the sheer volume of regulatory mandates in Oregon. Legislators should stop punishing family farms and instead ask us about the impacts of bills like SB 747.

Please vote no on SB 747.