

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

Our family grows pears in Hood River, and have been since 1936. I ask you to oppose SB 747.

We have roughly 220 acres of pears, and 10 acres of blueberries. The cost of fertilizer continues to grow, but the return for our crops does not follow the same growth rate. As growers, we calibrate every piece of machinery to apply an exact amount of fertilizer because of the high cost. There is no incentive to apply more than what our crop needs. We take soil samples to see what nutrients are deficient in the soil and mix our fertilizer accordingly. The bill does not account for differences in soil health practices, crop types, or sustainable farming methods already in place. The annual reporting requirement in the bill for fertilizer application will add MORE paperwork for my operation, which means less time farming. Civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation pose a severe financial threat, particularly for small- and medium-sized farms.

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.