

Submitter: Katherine Kahler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: SB747

- I am a Pear/apple and peach grower in Hood River, Oregon. I ask you to oppose SB 747.
- I have 32 acres of land where I grow fruit. Fertilizer is very expensive for ag producers, a built-in disincentive to not use any more than necessary to grow our crops. We test our soil each year to determine how much fertilizer is needed to keep the application at a minimum.
- 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.