

## **Testimony in Opposition to SB 747 from Representative Bobby Levy**

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Levy and I am the State Representative for House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties. **I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 747**, which would impose unnecessary and burdensome reporting requirements on agricultural landowners with at least 200 acres of irrigated farmland. This bill creates excessive regulatory hurdles without addressing the complexities of responsible fertilizer use, unfairly targets larger farms, and places an undue burden on agricultural producers across Oregon.

It is obvious that the proponents of SB 747 lack an intimate knowledge of the agriculture industry. For instance, fertilizer application rates vary widely based on numerous factors, including crop type, soil composition, irrigation methods, weather conditions, and seasonal changes. Even within the same crop, different varieties may require different nutrient levels. There is no universal or standardized guidance on fertilizer application because nutrient needs and uptake are highly specific to individual farms. Requiring producers to report raw fertilizer use data **ignores this complexity** and **creates a misleading narrative that application rates alone can determine overuse or environmental impact.**

Moreover, fertilizer is one of the most expensive inputs for farmers, and costs have skyrocketed in recent years. Producers are already financially disincentivized from applying more than necessary. Farmers carefully calculate nutrient applications based on their crop needs and economic realities, making the suggestion that overapplication is widespread both inaccurate and unfair. This bill assumes that farmers are not already acting as responsible stewards of their land, when in reality, they have every reason to apply only what is required for optimal production.

Beyond these concerns, the bill grants the State Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Quality broad authority to act on the reported information without clearly defining the scope or limits of their

enforcement. Farmers deserve transparency and certainty—not vague regulatory threats that could lead to further restrictions, fines, or penalties based on incomplete or misinterpreted data. Furthermore, there are serious concerns about how this information will be stored and protected. Requiring annual fertilizer reports creates unnecessary risks related to data security and the potential misuse of proprietary farm information.

At a time when Oregon’s agricultural industry is facing rising costs, labor shortages, and increasing regulatory pressure, SB 747 would add yet another burden without offering meaningful benefits to farmers, the environment, or public health. Instead of imposing arbitrary reporting mandates, the state should work collaboratively with farmers on voluntary, science-based approaches to nutrient management that recognize the complexity of agricultural production.

For these reasons, **I urge you to vote NO on SB 747** to protect Oregon’s farmers.

Respectfully,  
Bobby Levy