

SB 747

February 3, 2025

Senator Pham, Frederick, Golden, Mannin Jr., Patterson, Taylor, Representative Gamba, Neron, Ruiz, and Valderrama.

SB 747 is not a welcome sight in the eyes of Agriculture. As food producers, stewards of the land, air, and water we collectively strive to improve all the aspects of our natural resources to better the environment we have been entrusted with while earning a living. I believe that family owned and operated farms are the center of the agriculture universe in regards to stewardship. To further the point, I'm the 2008 recipient of the Union County Good Steward awarded at the 60th Annual Farmer Merchant Banquet. With some background being set, let's address the proposed SB 747.

While common perception may be that over fertilization has or could lead to environmental issues, let me put forth another perspective from the family owner/operator of a farm greater than 200 acres. Our farm is run like a business. We do not wish to spend one more penny on expensive inputs (fertilizer) than are necessary to achieve our target yields for all our crops. There is a diminishing marginal return for every product of commodity. Every good business owner knows all the numbers associated with being profitable, especially in these trying agricultural economic times. I'd be more concerned with the urban pesticide and fertilizer use that is applied without proper training in yards in cities! Farmers and applicators are the gold standard of use of these products.

As producers, stewards, families, and community members we do not take our responsibilities lightly. We are thoughtful of our actions and know that well laid plans lead to long term sustainability of our land, air, and water. Additional reporting would only increase the office time spent pushing out reports. This is time taken away from our duties as a steward. Just in forming this testimony I've contributed 22 minutes so you can hear my thoughts from a family farmer. That's time I'm willing to render on the matter, without compensation, and not tending to our farm responsibilities.

This Legislation need not go further. We already report water use among other things. SB 747 would only burden the family farms that put food on the tables of the citizens of the State of Oregon, The United States, and the world.

Thank you for your time to hear my written testimony.

Best regards,

Tim Wallender

Union County Oregon