

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

My name is Finley Tevlin and I am a farmworker who has lived in several communities around our state, in and around groundwater management areas (GMAs). I am writing today to support SB 747. It is so important that we do everything we can to control the groundwater contamination in sensitive areas. GMAs have already been designated by the state as having dangerous levels of contaminants. Not only does this hurt the people living here, taking away their assurance of clean drinking water, but it also impacts the environment and wildlife in the area, and threatens the ability of land to remain productive. This bill has been carefully crafted to apply to farms with 200 acres or more, who likely already track their fertilizer application, and it is not an enforcement or penalty bill. This is simply to make sure ODA has the information to advise farmers on programs and best practices that would help them not only protect water quality but save money on inputs.

This personally impacts me because several of my close friends have been involved in groundwater nitrate testing in the Umatilla basin and have found concerningly high levels in wells, and are left with data and no possible actions. We need to do more to help address this problem, and having this data reported would be an easy first step to managing the issue.

It is all of our responsibility to protect our water. This is not something that we can take lightly and it makes sense to require more reporting in sensitive areas. Please pass SB 747.

Thank you,

Finley Tevlin