

I am a rancher and farmer in Morrow County Oregon. The price of fertilizer inputs has not shown to inversely affect nitrate contamination. Fertilizer prices are at an all-time high, as is nitrate contamination. Shell arguments, about legacy nitrates, peer reviewed science, paperwork burdens and lack of meaningful understanding of complex nutrient science fill the pages of the testimony, as the quality of water suffers. The quality of our number one resource.

I am writing this today to give you an uncomplicated approach to clean water policy in Oregon. New Zealand uses this method as they too, were faced with the daunting task of water contamination policy, and a similar stakeholder process. Where the powerful Ag and Industry sector trumps the small voice of the individual. As a body, you simply **prioritize the health and welfare of the waters of Oregon**. The health and welfare of the people and the health and welfare of the economy fall into order naturally and spontaneously. The money, the lobbyists, the politics all become silent, and a clear path forward presents itself without unnecessary debate or discourse. The influencers become equalized, and water quality takes precedence.

The quality of water in Oregon is in decline, no one disputes that fact. Nor the fact that fertilizers are a large contributing factor. The fact that 30 years have passed since knowing of the issue. It's a long time to do little or nothing, especially now, knowing the situation is worsening. The trend analysis is proof we are not talking about legacy contamination. In the LUBGWMA special interest groups have driven voluntary policy to a standstill. We can no longer afford to do nothing; every step forward is progress. The hierarchy of priority must be the **health and welfare of the water**.

I have been through a health emergency and an economic emergency in Morrow County. Neither resulted in any positive change to the health of the water. I watch as my neighbors, my kids and grandkids and I suffer the ill effects of nitrates. I watch the tenants at the Port brace for shutdowns and farmers become fearful. If you believe this bill moves policy towards clean water for Oregon it's, one worthy of your vote.

This is a small step forward, and a small burden to ask to make the Waters of Oregon safe and useful to all. Water is life, and without it we all suffer. As a rancher I would gladly fill out some extra paperwork to save the life of my neighbor.

I'm glad to see Vice Chair Nash on this committee, he was in Morrow County and pledged his support to clean water as a candidate. Morrow County needs his advocacy. Oregon needs his advocacy. We all need his advocacy. I urge you to Prioritize the health of the water and support HB 747.

Kelly Doherty