



Mailing: 454 Willamette St. #218
Eugene, OR 97401
Office: 8940 N. Bradford St.
Portland, OR 97203
503.223.6418
info@willametteriverkeeper.org

Michelle Emmons
*Riverkeeper &
Executive Director*

February 3, 2025

Board of Directors:

Cathryn Tortorici
President

Tamara Madsen
Treasurer

Jessie Rohrig
Secretary

Steve Hernandez

Heather King

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 747 – Fertilizer Reporting for Clean Water

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 747, a critical step toward ensuring cleaner water for Oregonians. Our mission is to protect and restore the Willamette River and its tributaries, and we know firsthand how unregulated fertilizer application threatens the health of our waterways, communities, and ecosystems.

Fertilizer runoff is a leading cause of nutrient pollution, fueling toxic algae blooms and degrading water quality. These impacts are not theoretical—they are happening now. In recent years, toxic algae outbreaks have contaminated drinking water sources, restricted public access to beloved rivers, and harmed fish and wildlife. Without transparency and accountability in fertilizer use, we will continue to see these harmful consequences across Oregon.

SB 747 offers a common-sense solution—requiring large landowners to report fertilizer application. This measure will:

- **Increase transparency and accountability**, helping regulators and communities track where and when fertilizer is applied.
- **Prevent contamination of drinking water sources**, safeguarding the health of rural and low-income communities that disproportionately suffer from polluted water.
- **Reduce the risk of toxic algae blooms**, which are fueled by excess nutrients entering our rivers and lakes.
- **Align Oregon with best practices** already adopted in other states to curb fertilizer-related pollution.

Oregon has long been a leader in environmental protection. By passing SB 747, we can take a proactive step toward safeguarding our waterways, ensuring sustainable land management, and protecting public health. We urge you to support this legislation and move Oregon toward a future with clean, safe water for all.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Michelle Emmons
Interim Executive Director & Riverkeeper
Willamette Riverkeeper
michelle@willametteriverkeeper.org