

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water:

My name is Lois Hawk; I am a small hay farmer from Harrisburg, OR. I strongly urge you to support SB 747.

Water is life. Ground and surface water contamination is detrimental to all life. It is imperative that we, as stewards of the earth, manage this irreplaceable resource wisely. So it is important to ensure that both surface and groundwater be protected as much as possible from contamination in sensitive areas. Living within a Groundwater Management Area (Linn County), the issue with "black water" in Harrisburg's area's water supply is well-known locally, reducing housing values and being a place that many people choose not to live or to open businesses. The town does not thrive as nearby Coburg does.

Although our farm is only 42-acres, we minimize our fertilizer usage by annual soil tests, obey laws regarding application, and keep records of its application and only use certified applicators to fertilize our land. So for farms with 200-acres or more under management, it should be no burden to comply with this law should it be enacted.

As farmers and stewards of our land, it is our responsibility to protect the water. Without potable, safe water, we will live in a desert.

Thank you,

Lois Hawk

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