

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

My name is Kelly Sullivan and I am a food consumer from Snoqualmie, WA. 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.

Groundwater Management Areas 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.

We know that farmers are experts on their fields and already have detailed plans for fertilizer application. This bill is to make sure that farmers have all the information they need to make decisions for their farms and ecosystems and get them better access to ODA technical assistance based on real data.

This personally impacts me because: I am a consumer of the products grown in our country and am very passionate about the need for healthy ground water on many levels. I am a certified holistic nutrition consultant and have spent much time studying the link between the health of our planet/food system/ and consumption and health issues that are on the rise across all age groups and in all areas. This greatly reduces people's quality of life on a daily basis, which is physically excruciating for many, and drains people of their livelihoods. Please please empathize with this reality when making your decisions. The world can never have too much empathy but I think it is needed now more than ever.

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,
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