

# **CROOK – WHEELER COUNTY** *Farm Bureau*

498 S.E. Lynn Blvd. Prineville, OR 97754

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Oppose SB 747

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and Committee members,

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau is a member organization of over 100 farmers and ranchers. Our membership consists of small and large farms and ranches; we value the land, water and the ability to provide food and fiber for our community and the world. We participate in conservation projects, serve on various boards and committees to monitor and protect water quality and we also work diligently to provide a safe source of food and fiber while making sure we protect the land and water.

Why are you set on putting us out of business? Who is it that wants to eliminate family farms in Oregon? This is just another attempt to accuse the family farmers and ranchers of being careless, not caring about the consumers we sell our crops to, and contaminating the land and water we must have to grow our crops and livestock. **It is apparent that this bill has been carefully crafted to imply that only farms over 200 acres** are causing all the nitrate contamination in ground water. It has been documented that more nitrogen per acre is applied by home owners on their lawns than we farmers do. We as farmers cannot afford to over apply fertilizer; our commodity prices are low and we are using data to only apply what is needed for optimal production.

There is so much information needed for anyone to tell if fertilizer is being over applied. Calculating that too much fertilizer has been applied takes more than just knowing what was applied, you also have to calculate what came off in the growing crop itself. Oregon Department of Agriculture neither has the budget or staff to be able to take all the samples, do the testing and calculate all the data needed to make a determination on the accuracy on the application of fertilizer. It is also a fact that there are natural elements in the soil that causes contamination. We don't want anyone to have water contamination, we as farmers and ranchers need water and work every day to protect our environment.

We ask you to vote **no on SB 747** as it is not going to solve the problem and blaming each other is not a solution.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

*Tim Deboodt*

Tim Deboodt, President Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau

