

Submitter: Janice Flegel
On Behalf Of: Our Family Farm
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB747

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and Committee members,

Please Vote No on SB 747

It is obvious that this bill was carefully crafted to attack the fertilizer use by farmers of irrigated agriculture. DEQ is not going to be able to know anything about a farm and its inputs by getting a report from ODA about a crop grown using X amount of fertilizer. I submit DEQ and ODA do not have the expertise, manpower or testing facilities to determine the correct amount of fertilizer to be applied on every irrigated farm in Oregon above 200 acres. I also submit this bill was carefully crafted to eliminate certain farming practices and to put Oregon Irrigated Family Farms out of business.

I realize that there has been well Issues in the Boardman area and others as well. Were those wells tested when they were new? Have they found factual evidence showing the source of the contamination? There are so many possible sources of contamination and nature can be one. Jumping to conclusions is not the best way to go about solving a problem. Did you know that more fertilizer per acre is applied on the average family's yard than on an irrigated field per acre? Did you know that even organic farms use fertilizer that contains nitrogen and, in some cases, it is not tested to be sure the amount of nitrogen per acre being applied? Did you know that contaminants are in the soil and water naturally, even nitrogen?

I ask you to kill SB 747 do not let this monster out of committee!