

Submitter: Elizabeth Dix
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB747

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

My name is Elizabeth and I am a Beaverton Community Member writing today in support of SB747.

It is critical to the overall health of Oregonians and long term regeneration of our lands that we do as much as possible to control groundwater contamination, even more critically in sensitive areas. Groundwater Management Areas have been designated by the state as having extremely dangerous levels of contaminants. Not only does this hurt Oregonians living here by removing confidence in clean drinking water, but it also impacts our environment and wildlife in the area, threatening the ability of our lands to remain productive now and in our future.

This bill has been intentionally designed and written to apply ONLY to farms with 200 acres or more. These farms likely already track fertilizer application and this bill is not written as an enforcement or penalty, but an assurance bill to make sure ODA has information routed in facts, data and logic to advise farmers on programs and best practices that help them not only protect water quality but additionally cost savings on inputs.

Oregonians know that farmers are the experts on their fields and as such have detailed plans for fertilizer application. This bill helps ensure that farmers have all the information they need to make educated decisions and provide better access to ODA technical assistance.

As someone who plans on remaining an Oregonian and continuing to support local farms it is important to me that we use data to make informed decisions. This bill helps our local farmers to be even better stewards of the resources and continue supporting Oregon's food industry for sustaining economics.

It is the responsibility of all of us to protect our water. This is not something that we should take lightly and we should require more reporting in sensitive areas to make educated and non biased decisions. As such I urge the consideration to pass SB 747.

Thank you for your service!

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