



# Oregon Synod

*Walking Together Into Courageous Love*

February 6th, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Subject: Support for SB747 Getting the Facts on Fertilizer

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

My name is Sarah Loose, and I serve as Director of Disaster & Climate Resilience for the Oregon Synod, a body of over 100 ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) throughout the state of Oregon. I'm writing today in support of SB747, which will establish basic reporting requirements for fertilizer applications on large farms, and ensure that agencies have information critical to protecting Oregon's land, water, air, and people.

The people of our Synod include landowners, scientists, farmers and growers and ranchers, agricultural workers, domestic well users, renters and homeowners and people without permanent housing, recreational enthusiasts and people from a broad range of political, educational and cultural backgrounds. While we live, work, worship and play in different ways and in different communities - from our state's most remote frontier and rural communities to its largest metropolitan areas - we all have a shared stake in the well-being and future of this sacred place we call home.

Core to our Synod's mission is the faithful stewardship of Earth's most precious and life-sustaining gifts: the water we drink, the air we breathe, the soil our food grows in, and the rivers and streams that provide critical habitat for fish and all manner of aquatic life, as well as sources of delight and play for us and our children - and hopefully our children's children. We are concerned about the overuse of synthetic fertilizers by large industrial farms, and the resulting degradation of Oregon's agricultural future, water, and air quality.

Our ministries and members are eager to work with farmers, farmworkers, producers, consumers, government agencies, community-based organizations, and other partners to address these threats and support the long-term health of our diverse ecosystems, economies, and communities. Indeed, many of us are already deeply involved in related efforts both locally and statewide towards these ends, including through hands-on restoration work with our local watershed councils, research and development around regenerative agriculture and soil health, advocating for policies and practices to protect groundwater, enhance air quality, and mitigate climate change, to name just a few. But to do so more effectively and strategically, particularly in regards to our state's agricultural and food systems, we need more accurate information about actual fertilizer use, including how much is being used, and where.

I urge you to support SB747. Let's get the information we need to faithfully steward the Earth's gifts today and for the future. The health and safety of us all depend upon it.

Sincerely,  
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