



ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEMS, INC.

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5 March 2019

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State of Oregon Senate
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Dembrow and Committee Members:

Regarding: Support for Septic Affordable Loan Program Funding (SB 756 / LC 3555)

As a Public Health Sanitarian (Environmental Health Specialist) with over 41 years of direct experience regulating, siting, designing, inspecting and maintaining Septic Systems, I urge the committee to support this legislation. This will have a positive effect on Affordable Housing and Environmental Protection.

Older Septic Systems were the original recycling and reuse systems, operating silently and efficiently until exceeding their maximum capacity. Unfortunately, older systems were not required by law or permits to be maintainable, so were not designed with access needed to clean or replace parts.

These systems were expected to fail eventually. Now, decades later: "Surprise! "You need an Expensive / Modern Onsite Wastewater Treatment System." Repairs could cost "\$8,000 to \$30,000 or more.

Modern Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems are "high tech" with high costs. These systems utilize the same scientific principles as municipal treatment plants, including: Settling, Filtration, Aeration, Computerized Control Panels and if needed, Disinfection and Telemetry. These systems are also required to be professionally maintained. Compared to public sewers, Onsite Systems don't use Harsh Chemicals, or discharge sewage into surface water. This level of treatment is in the public interest.

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to protecting Oregon's environment and for your consideration of the legislation needed to ensure effective and affordable public health protection.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Sweeney, MS, REHS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist
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Enclosure: Wastewater Treatment System Effluent Comparison Photo



ENVIRONMENTAL
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**Onsite Wastewater Treatment
Single Family Residence
(Rough Cost Estimates)**

**Septic Tank
Effluent
\$8k to \$10k**

**Alternative
Treatment
Technology Effluent
\$15k to \$25k**

**Sand Filter
Effluent
\$20k to \$25k**