

Submitter: Doris Cellarius

On Behalf Of: self

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB3123

I strongly support HB 3123. It is a very important bill because everyone in Oregon needs to know whether the biosolids applied to agricultural lands in Oregon contain PFAS and whether the PFAS have contaminated food crops, forage and animals.

This contamination has been documented in Maine and Michigan and other states. Maine has now banned the application of biosolids to agricultural lands and is financially compensating the farmers whose personal health and livelihoods have been ruined by the PFAS found in the biosolids that contaminated their crops, animals (which they can no longer sell) and their own bodies.

Farmers in Michigan have suffered similar experiences and the state of Michigan is requiring testing of biosolids for PFAS and for testing crops grown on lands fertilized with biosolids.

The city of Portland's municipal biosolids are disposed of by shipping them to farms in Eastern Oregon for land application as fertilizers. Some application sites are where animals are grazed.. Meat from these farms should be tested for PFAS. All Oregonians need to be protected from exposures to PFAS in their foods.

We now know that biosolids - usually given away free to farmers - are causing harm because when tested virtually all of them are now known to contain toxic PFAS chemicals. Cities in other states are finding alternative ways to dispose of biosolids - and Oregon should follow their lead. I urge adoption of this bill and implementation of this testing program.