



NORTHWEST BIOSOLIDS

Unearthing Sustainable Solutions

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Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Members, House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: Letter of Support for HB3123

Chair Helm and Committee members:

The interests of biosolids and residual management in the Pacific Northwest is of significant concern to many parties. Northwest Biosolids Association (NWB) is a regional association which provide research, education and guidance on safe practices and solutions for biosolids and residuals. NWB represents over 90 utilities, including many of those in the state of Oregon. One of our primary missions is to provide reliable information and advocacy on behalf of our members and the public, and to be a leader in sustainability and utilization of renewable resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill (HB) 3123 relating to a study concerning PFAS in biosolids applied to land. Our association and members recognize the importance of addressing threats from PFAS and related "forever chemicals" to public health and the environment. However, clean water agencies are passive receivers of these constituents. These agencies do not manufacture nor use these chemical nor do they have effective means of treating them. As such, it is imperative that any future decisions related to this matter be based on science and reliable data.

HB3123 is to provide direction and funding in response to the potential threat to the historically safe and economical practice of biosolids land application. It is essential that maintaining suitable biosolids management practices continue to provide for a healthy relationship between wastewater utilities and agriculture communities for the multiple environmental and economic benefits.

As such, NWB provides our support for passage of HB3123 and the subsequent collaboration between Oregon research institutions and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and that adequate funding be provided for such studies and analyses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Northwest Biosolids Association

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