

To: Chair Helm; Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens; Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water

From: Tracy Rainey, Clean Water Services

Date: March 1, 2023

RE: Support for HB 3123 – PFAS Study Funding

Chair Helm; Vice-Chair Owens; Vice-Chair Hartman and Members of the Committee:

Clean Water Services is a water resource management utility that provides wastewater, stormwater and water resource recovery services to more than 600,000 residents and businesses in urban Washington County. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3123.

HB 3123 will provide state funding that is necessary to better understand the fate and transport of per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances as related specifically to the land application of biosolids. This state funding, combined with local funding contributions including from Clean Water Services, will allow Oregon State University to conduct this important work.

Oregon's clean water utilities are passive receivers of PFAS – our agencies do not manufacture these chemicals and we do not currently have effective means to effectively break them down through the wastewater treatment process. We have been encouraged to learn, through recent proactive sampling efforts, Oregon has not seen the level of PFAS found in other states with manufacturers of PFAS. At the same time, we know that PFAS are ubiquitous and that PFAS can be found within the state of Oregon.

It is important we continue to expand upon the data and science needed in order to develop informed policies and practices that will help us to most effectively protect the public and environment. Specifically, we are hopeful the data gathered through this study will help to facilitate a better understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with the land application of biosolids. Clean Water Services has participated in source identification and tracking for PFAS and has identified source reduction efforts as a key strategy for reducing PFAS discharges to the environment. Additional data, specific to the land application of biosolids, will provide important information and will allow us to better understand the effectiveness of actions, such as source control efforts, needed to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

We urge your support of HB 3123 and would be happy to provide any follow-up information that may be helpful. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Rainey at raineyt@cleanwaterservices.org.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and this proposed legislation.