



Testimony in Support of HB 4049 - PFAS Biosolids Study

February 9th, 2024

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

As a Legal Intern for Beyond Toxics, an organization that serves thousands of members and communities across Oregon, I strongly encourage you to support HB 4049. This bill, and the scientific data that it would promote, is a vital step in developing smart, and effective policy on PFAS, soil, and water quality interactions.

Our organization's Executive Director, Lisa Arkin, has submitted testimony detailing the knowledge already available on PFAS, and the crisis that our communities are facing in response to their pervasiveness. I urge you to reflect on her testimony, and use that information in supporting this important study.

I am just a third-year law student at the University of Oregon, and I am only an intern at Beyond Toxics. However, my experience has continuously informed one belief: that effective, robust science is necessary for effective, robust policy. I have seen it in policy supporting wildlife, and the promotion of their natural migration corridors. I have seen it in groundwater planning and funding, and the effectiveness of merely considering the restraints that overuse has on water systems. And I believe that, if we have a proper and full understanding on the effects of PFAS on Oregon's water and soil, we can take a step in protecting those resources, and the folks who depend on them.

I urge legislators to support the passage of HB 4049. It is critical that we increase the scientific understanding for PFAS to accumulate in biosolids in a way that may impact crops, soil, and water quality. HB 4049 will provide Oregon policy makers with sound, scientific information to further ensure the safety of Oregon's biosolids land application programs.

Sincerely,
Caleb Todd, Legal Intern
Beyond Toxics