



SOUTHERN OREGON WATER TECHNOLOGY

600 Rancho Vista Dr, Grants Pass, Or. 97526 * 541-415-1117 * 541-499-8041

April 3, 2025

Subject: Testimonial of support for Heard Farms expansion and grant request from small systems and small Cities.

I am writing this testimonial of support on behalf of the many systems that Southern Oregon Water Technology manages or has managed, operating small wastewater treatment systems for decades, attempting for many years to affordably manage and accept septage while also looking for affordable disposal options for biosolids.

Septage; after many years of trying to manage accepting septage into smaller wastewater treatment facilities, it became clear that the amount of energy, challenges, liabilities and overall costs, that **this is** not a viable option. **It more than doubles the overall operational cost** of running a facility. It creates extensive challenges with operation of the facility and compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued NPDES permit. In my opinion, unless you are a major wastewater treatment system this just isn't an option. I have seen small communities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars only to abandon accepting septage. Septage waste in general often includes porta-potty waste, RV waste and grease trap waste which are extremely difficult to treat in a conventional wastewater treatment system. I have witnessed in smaller remote communities, as legal disposal becomes an unaffordable option, the waste is dumped illegally either on the land, roadside ditches or streams.

Biosolids disposal for small systems and cities; small wastewater systems almost inevitably endure challenges relating to biosolids disposal. The treatment facilities often face operational challenges for no other reason than not having an affordable option for removal of biosolids. Small communities historically had digesters or solids handling facilities individually with their own staff, trucks and farmlands to dispose of biosolids. In the current day this is not viable, the costs are very high and the ability for a community to grow is limited. Small community biosolids are only 1.5%-3% actual biosolids, the rest is just water. Currently most of it must be collected and transported to Roseburg at an enormous cost.

In Oregon I've been managing critical infrastructure for more than 30 years, I greatly encourage and support the funding request for Heard Farms to expand. It is a pivotal point in time, to make and support a regional solution as so many systems are at a point of no options. It is the best alternative to support and protect both public and environmental health and buffer us from significant community costs of managing septage and biosolids in the future. Many of the true costs currently are cloaked as I see **hundreds of millions of dollars** of public monies being spent individually to manage biosolids disposal in the future.

At Heard Farms you spend a penny to get a hundred dollars in return for Oregon residents.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Bollweg
Owner/ Operator Southern Oregon Water Technology
600 Rancho Vista, Grants Pass Oregon 97526
sowatertech@ymail.com
(541) 415-1117

* Dedicated to the Protection of Public and Environmental Health through Responsible Resource Management