

Dear Chair Helms, Chair Owens, and Members of the Committee,

We are a small excavation contractor in Central Oregon specializing in on site septic system design, installation and repair. Over the past 2 years, we have had the pleasure of working with COIC and its applicants on COSAP related projects. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the State of Oregon, DEQ and all Community Development partners in our efforts to repair failing systems with grant funds provided through COSAP.

Let's be honest, a septic system is neither exciting or interesting to most people. And we typically don't even think about them until health, lifestyle or environmental concerns arise. And when this happens, the cost to repair or replace a system is beyond the financial means of many in our community.

Our customers have been VFW, ESL and low income community members in need of public financial assistance. The issues they face with a failing system are often extreme. Without COSAP grants to repair or replace a failing system, their homes may become uninhabitable, perimeter soils unhealthy and overall physical health at risk. The COSAP funds are a literal lifeline to a "normal" existence of flushing toilets, well-draining sinks and showers, yards free of pathogens and contaminants and fresh air.

I have personally experienced the gratitude and appreciation of COSAP grant recipients, which far exceeds that of a typical septic customer by the way. Ha! Some projects end in hugs and joyful tears by people who truly understand the support they receive from community leaders, managers, programs, contractors, partners, etc.

I hope this gives you a sense of the importance of your past work and future endeavors.

Thank you again,

Tom Cooper
Tumalo Excavation LLC