



*Working with community wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies
across the state to protect Oregon's water quality since 1987.*

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February 10, 2025

Representative Ken Helm, Co-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for House Bill 2947—the Biosolids PFAS Study Funding Bill

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee:

As a long serving member Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) Board, I currently serve as the chair of ACWA's Biosolids and Recycled Water Committee. Our committee works to support public wastewater utilities in implementing sustainable multi-benefit biosolids management programs that comply with strict environmental and public health protections. There is a clear need to develop the science and data on PFAS in land applied biosolids in Oregon, and HB 2947 is intended to fund the study which will do just that.

To provide context regarding the extent of biosolids land application in Oregon, according to the National Biosolids Data Project, 8% of Oregon's land is considered cropland, and of that, 0.44% of the croplands have municipal biosolids applied to them. For all the biosolids generated at Oregon treatment facilities, 72% is applied to lands, about 40,000 dry tons annually. Oregon's biosolids program is regulated and monitored by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which implements EPA's biosolids regulations and, furthermore, requires site-specific plans with management practices, monitoring, and reporting that ensure safe land application of biosolids.

With partnerships between Oregon clean water agencies and farmers, and oversight by DEQ, biosolids management programs provide cost effective and environmental benefits by:

- Improving soil conditions by increasing soil organic carbon and nutrients
- Increasing water holding capacity, which can reduce irrigation water demand
- Reducing crop drought stress
- Increasing crop yields
- Sequestering carbon for long-term storage

Land application is not only cost-effective, but is also a sustainable practice by recycling this important organic resource. Alternative practices, including incineration and landfill disposal, do not capture the

environmental benefits and they are not sustainable in the long term due to dependence on energy and consumption of landfill space. Moreover, with respect to PFAS, they do not provide treatment, and can release PFAS compounds to the air, water, and wastewater.

Municipal wastewater agencies and their farming partners want to address emerging toxics of concern, like PFAS, to ensure that land application practices remain safe. HB 2947 will enable critical research toward better understanding of pathways of PFAS from biosolids land application programs, which will provide Oregon policy makers with sound and scientific information to further ensure safe programs. Please vote yes on HB 2947.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Dick
Portland, Oregon
Oregon ACWA Biosolids and Recycled Water Committee Chair