



# OREGONIANS FOR FOOD & SHELTER

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A non-profit coalition to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

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February 9, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Re: Concerns regarding HB 2947

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger-McDonald, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2947. Oregonians for Food & Shelter (OFS) is a diverse coalition with members across Oregon's natural resource sector, including many of Oregon's agricultural commodity groups and the forest products industry. Our members come together around the importance of pesticides, fertilizers, and biotechnology in producing and protecting natural resources, and we advocate for science-based policies impacting these tools.

We appreciate the intent of this bill to understand whether local biosolids are contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and the potential impacts of that contamination to Oregon's soils and crops. While some of our members may use biosolids as fertilizer, EPA estimates that biosolids are applied on less than 1% of fertilized acreage of agriculture annually.

In sharing our concerns, we first want to highlight the extensive work on this topic already underway at the federal level under previous administrations. This work includes the recently released [EPA draft risk assessment for PFAS in biosolids](#), as well as continuous food supply monitoring for PFAS residues conducted by USDA and FDA.

We understand this project will have a very small sample size of just a few farms. However, the potential for unwarranted reputational impacts to Oregon agriculture is high, as results with limited generalizability could be misinterpreted or worse. It is not clear what will be gained with such a small-scale study relative to the detailed body of work and research that has already been amassed at the federal level.

Further, we want to highlight that the findings of EPA's draft risk assessment regarding PFAS and biosolids underscore the importance of proactive federal and state policies to *control and remove PFAS at their source*. Under [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#), the agency has provided guidance to enable states to prevent and restrict PFAS from entering wastewater treatment streams.



Our members certainly support ongoing research to understand and track current levels of PFAS in local biosolids. We would also support state-level efforts and investments that align with well-researched national goals of controlling and removing PFAS at source so that it does not enter wastewater streams and become an issue for soils, crops, and ultimately Oregon producers and our agricultural sector.

Please consider where state investments on this issue are best leveraged. We encourage a deeper review and alignment with the ongoing work and goals at the federal level. State investments should support research that is solution-oriented, and which prioritizes both the beneficial use of biosolids and the strong global reputation of Oregon agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Murray".

**Katie Murray**  
Executive Director  
Oregonians for Food & Shelter