

To: Co-Chair Helm; Co-Chair Owens; Vice-Chair McDonald; Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water

From: Tracy Rainey, Government Relations Manager, Clean Water Services

Date: February 10, 2025

RE: Support for HB 2947 – PFAS Biosolids Study Funding

Clean Water Services is local government and public utility that provides wastewater, stormwater and water resource recovery services to more than 600,000 residents and businesses in urban portions of Washington County, including within 12 cities. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2947.

HB 2947 will provide state funding to better understand the fate and transport of per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances as related, specifically, to the land application of biosolids. This state funding, combined with local funding contributions, will allow Oregon State University to conduct this important work.

Oregon's clean water utilities are passive receivers of PFAS – our agencies do not manufacture these chemicals and we do not currently have effective means, including scalable technology, to break them down through the wastewater treatment process. We have been encouraged to learn through recent proactive sampling efforts that Oregon has not seen the level of PFAS found in many other states. At the same time, we know that PFAS are ubiquitous and that PFAS is found within the state of Oregon, including from domestic sources (e.g. household products).

It is important that we continue to expand upon the data and science needed in order to develop informed policies and practices that will help us to most effectively protect the public and environment. Clean Water Services has participated in source identification and tracking of PFAS and has identified source reduction efforts as a key strategy for reducing PFAS discharges to the environment. Additional data, specific to the land application of biosolids, will provide important information and will allow us to better understand the effectiveness of specific strategies and source reduction efforts.

We urge your support of HB 2947 and would be happy to provide any follow-up information that may be helpful. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Rainey at raineyt@cleanwaterservices.org.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony and this proposed legislation.