

COURTNEY NERON  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 26



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Testimony in Support of [HB 2947](#)**

February 10, 2025

Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the Committee,

I write today to share my support for HB 2947, a bill to **study PFAS in land-applied biosolids at select sites (and on a voluntary basis) throughout Oregon in order to get a better understanding of where, how, and how much PFAS is impacting Oregon's farm soils, crops, and water quality.**

I am committed to reducing toxins and protecting Oregon's natural resources and working lands wherever possible. My constituents, and Oregonians across the state, share a growing awareness and concern about PFAS chemical contamination and exposure.

PFAS stands for **PerFlouroAlkyl** and **PolyFlouroAlkyl** Substances, a class of thousands of synthetic chemicals also known as "forever chemicals" because they do not break down in the environment and they bioaccumulate (which means they build up in living things), leading to adverse health impacts such as cancer, hormone disruption; liver and thyroid harm; low fertility and birth defects.

Because they are so good at repelling water, resisting stains, and being a barrier for grease, **they are used in a wide variety of everyday household products, like shampoo, pizza boxes, carpeting, nonstick cookware, carseats and clothing.** When these products are used, washed, or worn, PFAS slough off and the chemicals travel down drains and into wastewater systems. Elsewhere, it has shown up in water and food sources. PFAS doesn't care who manufactured it, doesn't understand property lines or water rights. When companies manufacture and use PFAS it becomes part of our world and we need to better understand its impact in Oregon.

Nutrient rich biosolids applied to agricultural fields are a valuable byproduct of municipal wastewater systems. In some cases in states that have *responsibly looked into this*, biosolids have shown significant levels of PFAS, but in other places, results have proven the safety of ongoing biosolids use. Right now, we just don't know Oregon's story. PFAS are very hard (if not impossible) to get rid of- in air, soil, water, and animals (including humans). **In order to address any accumulation of PFAS, we must understand the scope of any contamination in our Oregon environment, which is what HB 2947 aims to do.**

HB2947 is one of a few bills to address PFAS this session. A companion concept I've introduced for this bill is [HB3512](#), which, similar to [Amara's Law in Minnesota](#), will phase out the sale (in Oregon) of certain non-essential products that have intentionally added PFAS. We know that manufacturing PFAS can create cancer hot spots like the one at Amara's high school near the 3M factory. Their state recently addressed what [3M knew for decades – that their product](#)

[was harmful](#) to human, animal and environmental health. [Maine also recently took action](#) after discovering that the application of biosolids to land has rendered some areas [contaminated](#) and no longer useful for crops; additionally, their dairy cow milk in certain areas tested far over any acceptable rate, making it unsafe to consume. We need to take action to reduce any source of PFAS here in Oregon so that our biosolids resource *stays* safe; but we also need the **reassurance that a study can provide, and thorough understanding of the current PFAS presence here**, which is why both of these bills (and a few others this session) are so important.

This particular biosolids study policy has been introduced in prior sessions with broad support from legislators and organizations. We need to make sure that **this session we pass and fund this bill in order to take informed steps to protect Oregonian's health, the wellbeing of our flora and fauna, and our agricultural lands.**

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I urge your support of HB2947.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron  
House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, and Wilsonville