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Testimony for SB 956 - Heard Farms Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure Grant Submitted by Royal Flush Environmental Services

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- 1) **Current Utilization:** Royal Flush Environmental Services currently utilizes Heard Farms for waste disposal from its residential and commercial pumping services. The waste collected from septic systems and commercial properties is processed at Heard Farms' facility, making it a critical resource for our operations.
 - 2) **2. Volume and Demand:** Royal Flush manages significant volumes of wastewater through its residential septic and commercial pumping services. An expansion of Heard Farms' wastewater treatment infrastructure would directly support our capacity to handle large-scale and frequent waste disposal needs efficiently.
 - 3) **3. Operational Efficiency:** Increased capacity at Heard Farms would streamline Royal Flush's waste management processes. Quick and reliable disposal options help maintain service schedules, reduce turnaround times, and improve overall operational efficiency, particularly during emergency pump-outs or high-demand periods.
 - 4) **4. Regulatory Compliance:** The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) mandates that wastewater be processed at certified facilities. By expanding Heard Farms' capacity, Royal Flush can ensure continued compliance with state regulations and maintain high standards for environmental safety in waste processing.
 - 5) **5. Local Economic Impact:** Heard Farms' proximity to Royal Flush's service area in Lane, Linn, Benton, and Douglas counties minimizes transportation costs and logistical challenges associated with waste disposal. An expanded facility would enhance these logistical advantages, allowing Royal Flush to maintain competitive pricing and service efficiency.
 - 6) **6. Risk Management:** During emergency services, such as septic backups or urgent commercial pumping needs, having a reliable and expanded treatment facility reduces the risk of processing delays. This supports Royal Flush's ability to respond quickly to customer needs and maintain a high level of service.