

Submitter: michael Bollweg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Michael Bollweg, I am the co-owner of Southern Oregon Water Technology. I am a Class 4 Wastewater Operator (the highest licensing possible in Oregon) and have been licensed in both Water and Wastewater Treatment for over 3 decades. I have been providing services in wastewater treatment to small Cities and Community systems for decades in Oregon. Managing millions of dollars in capital improvements in wastewater and water treatment systems. Proud to be group of some of the most highly respected and dedicated Operators in our region.

The most limiting and expensive component of many systems is how to manage biosolids disposal. The ever increasing costs, lack of qualified staff as well as the inability for a system to develop a sound and affordable option for biosolids treatment has placed many systems close to extreme financial peril, facing fines and little options short of minimizing facility/ community growth and stripping funds from other essential services. This in order to comply with an ever increasing regulatory requirements from both the DEQ and the EPA.

The answer?, well the answer is already here, on how to best manage the biosolids in both an affordable and environmentally responsible method. It is the "Heard Farms" approach to biosolids treatment, in turn producing and extremely beneficial and environmentally responsible product at an affordable price, if they get this financial help. The alternative disposal method of disposal in landfills is not only extremely expensive but just irresponsible, but many system there is no other alternative, as they are just too small and financially strapped to possibly afford any other long term alternative including transporting biosolids up north. "Heard Farms" is a long term responsible alternative that will enhance and produce a highly productive and natural cycle of putting these biosolids affordably back in the life cycle of enhancing naturally the balance of waste to beneficial use. A great long term alternative for Southern Oregon region.

Please consider the following;

- * From septage to Biosolids disposal for small systems and even larger systems there are few affordable alternatives for biosolids disposal.
- * There is a significant transportation costs to transport outside of the region.
- * Alternatives may not be environmentally responsible and affordable.
- * There is a bottle neck that forces other essential services to be cut back affecting

low income affordable housing and supplying funds to other critical infrastructure when affordable biosolids options are not available.

* There will be a great environmental benefit to enhance none productive farm land back to high yield farm land.

* The regional approach will save countless emissions and cost related to transportation.

* The limiting application of chemical fertilizers and the effects of run off will improve water quality in streams, reducing toxic algae blooms/cyanotoxins .

* When affordable it will reduce and hopefully eliminate illegals' actives as it relates to waste disposal

To clarify the important, since I work in small Cities and small systems. I see communities spending \$100'000's of dollars only to come up with extremely unaffordable options. But it in the hands of a private entity that has the knowledge and many many years of success. Keep your checks and balances in place then make alternative done! uncomplicated, local responsible and affordable...Our biosolids issues for the most part resolved just my world in Southern Oregon this would be significant, greatly significant. Its spending a buck and getting \$100 back in just a few years. Then let me go back to focusing on the treatment processes and doing what I do best...Make Clean Water! Please support the Heard Farm expansion..

I wish I could have been available to testify in person

Respectfully,

Michael Bollweg/ Owner Operator
Southern Oregon Water Technology