

Submitter: Michael Bollweg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

Good morning committee members,

I am the Public Works Director of the City of Rogue River. I have spent my career as both a public servant and also a high-level Wastewater Treatment Operator, am the responsible person in charge of the City's wastewater collection and treatment systems. In small towns we wear many hats.

I would like to show my support for a regional wastewater biosolids disposal alternative (Heard Farms). In recent years our small city is facing an extremely large financial burden in trying to manage the ever-increasing costs of Wastewater Treatment. In the past year we have leaned heavily on Heard Farms for a disposal option, if you can imagine the cost to us of having to truck 10s of 1000's of gallons of stored biosolids from Rogue River Oregon to Roseburg. Mind you at best this is 4-5% solids and the rest just water. We need a regional solution that is affordable and has the background and ethics and experience of Heard Farms.

Small communities (I have worked in many) are incredibly limited on funds and the cost of running a treatment plant and biosolids disposal are a significant portion of our annual budget. There are other options but really none that are even closely affordable, without a regional biosolids facility. Our facility was designed with a land application alternative, but it has turned out to be so incredibly expensive that we are choosing just to haul it away. Small facilities such as ours cannot except septage as we do not have the advanced technology to treat septage and have no real cost-effective way to dispose of the end product.

Please support small communities with affordable options for biosolids disposal. It will support and benefit all in this region, environmentally, jobs, options for small cities to grow. It will also decrease I would hope dramatically the illegal dumping of mostly septage in our outlying areas affecting both public and environmental health.

Thank you and again please support a regional facility,

Michael Bollweg
Public Works Director
City of Rogue River