



Metropolitan Wastewater MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



partners in wastewater management

MWMC Commission

Jennifer Yeh
Eugene City Councilor
MWMC President

Bill Inge
Lane County Citizen
MWMC Vice President

Pat Farr
Lane County Commissioner

Christopher Hazen
Eugene Citizen

Doug Keeler
Springfield Citizen

Peter Ruffier
Eugene Citizen

Alan Stout
Springfield City Councilor

Administration

Matt Stouder
MWMC Executive Officer
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Operations

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City of Eugene
410 River Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97404
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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Janeen Sollman
Chair, Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street, NE, S-207
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable David Brock Smith
Vice Chair, Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Senate
900 Court Street, NE, S-316
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted via olis.oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 956

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

As a local wastewater management agency, the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) serves over 270,000 people in the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area, is a respected resource for cleaning water and sustainable wastewater management in the southern Willamette Valley and is committed to protecting public health and improving water quality in Oregon.

Heard Farms is a private company that provides sustainable wastewater services to over 19 communities across Oregon at their facility near Roseburg. They also provide services to dozens of septage haulers, pumper trucks and food manufacturers throughout southern Oregon, along with a receiving station in Eugene which provides complementary wastewater services to that of the MWMC for waste haulers – particularly for fats, oils, and grease (FOG) waste. The MWMC's regional treatment plant is not capable of receiving most FOG waste, and upgrades for a facility to do so would be expensive and take years to bring online. FOG receiving stations are extremely limited in Oregon, with very few public wastewater treatment plants having the capability to accept and treat this waste.

Without significant investment at their existing facility, Heard Farms risks exceeding capacity, violating water quality parameters, and no longer being able to accept waste from the customers they serve. Furthermore, the significant burden of providing these services and meeting the associated strict water quality standards would shift to the small communities and customers that presently depend on the services Heard Farms provides, at a cost that would be unaffordable for the community members living in these localities.

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Senate Bill 956 will provide needed funding to allow Heard Farms to expand their facilities to provide wastewater services that small, rural communities in southern Oregon depend on, including the complex services associated with the land application of biosolids and treatment of septage and FOG waste.

As a leader in clean water, the MWMC strongly encourages consideration and funding of wastewater treatment needs in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Stouder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Matt Stouder, PE
MWMC Executive Officer
225 Fifth St
Springfield, OR 97477
www.mwmcpartners.org