

—HEARD FARMS, INC.—



HEARD FARMS, INC.
ROSEBURG, OR

LOCATION & FACILITY

Heard Farms, Inc.'s main facility is located in Roseburg, OR on 325 acres, just off I-5.



LAGOON - Approx. 5 acres of covered and sealed lagoon space, which has a holding capacity of 15,000,000 gallons.

FILTRATE STORAGE - 13-14 Acres of lined lagoons for filtrate storage, with a holding capacity of approximately 22,000,000 gallons.

— OPERATIONAL SUMMARY —

Heard Farms, Inc.

When trucks come into our facility and unload into our headworks, the material is screened and measured. Then it is discharged into our anaerobic lagoon system, where it is biologically digested for as long as six months. Most of our incoming gallons are either septage from rural residences or bio solids from municipalities. The incoming product has typically already been digested to an acceptable level.

Next, the liquid is pumped out to our dewatering facility. It is ran through either belt presses or a centrifuge; then the remaining solid martial from our dewatering operation is either stored in our cake storage area or taken directly to be land applied on approved land application ground.

The filtrate is ran up the hill to the filtrate ponds, where it is placed through a denitrification process. Once it is our irrigation season of May 1st - October 31st, it is disinfected and irrigated on our farmland for fertilization and irrigation of our pastures and grass hay fields.

Environmental Aspect

Heard Farms' business substantially improves the productivity of all the farms and ranches that receive our products. We do not discharge any wastewater into waters of the state, it is all used to sustainably farm. We irrigate recycled water on around 218 acres; we have more than 2,000 acres of approved Bio Solids application ground. The percentage of protein is greatly enhanced on these pastures and hayfields that recieve the nutrients from the recyled water and biosolids being applied. The tonnage yield is almost doubled in most cases.



HEARD FARMS, INC. —

Who We Serve



Scope of Service

Heard Farms, Inc. receives waste at it's Roseburg facility and also reaches out and trucks waste from many different sources in Oregon. Heard Farms, Inc. picks up or receives the vast majority of waste from all the rural residential areas; porta potty waste; waste from food manufacturing; rest areas; parks and recreational areas; RV parks; casinos; as well as restaurant grease trap waste.

Heard Farms Inc. hauls biosolids and all other types of waste from as far north as Canby, Oregon; as far south as the California border; as well as along the coast from Brookings to Yachats, Oregon. We'd like to say, if you live in Southern Oregon, you do business with Heard Farms every day. We serve 43 residential pumper companies and food manufacturers in Southern Oregon; as well as 19 public or municipal entities.

Most of the customers we deal with on a daily or weekly basis are included on the following list. Please feel free to contact any of them for a reference.

HEARD FARMS, INC.

List of Pumpers

- A-1 Septic - Roseburg
- A-Affordable Royal Flush - White City
- Above All Sanitation - Eugene
- Ace Equipment - Eugene
- Allied Septic Service - Grants Pass
- Beeler Excavation - Grants Pass
- Best Portable Toilets - Grants Pass
- Best Septic - Eugene
- Brookings Rotor-Rooter
- Bucks Sanitary Service - Eugene
- C Gray LLC - Roseburg
- Cal-OR Grease Trap - Crescent City, CA
- Coos Bay Rotor-Rooter
- D and D Sanitation - Grants Pass
- Eber Hards Dairy - Redmond
- Econo Rooter - Myrtle Point
- GVP Septic - Oakland
- Himmelrick Enterprises - Bandon
- Jake's Superior Septic - Grants Pass
- Jen-Court Environmental - Eugene
- Mahoney Environmental Solutions
- Organic West Creamery - Myrtle Point
- Outback Septic - Cave Junction
- Pollock Septic Service - Roseburg
- Precision Pumping and Excavating - Grants Pass
- River City - Portland
- Rogue Valley Septic Service - Grants Pass
- Roseburg Rooter - Roseburg
- Roseburg Rotor-Rooter
- Royal Flush - Eugene
- Skylane Farms - Coburg
- SOS Septic Pumping - Springfield
- Southern Oregon Septic Service - Murphy
- Southern Septic - Oakland

- Sweet Water Sanitation - White City
- Thompson Septic & Rooter - Eugene
- Umpqua Dairy - Roseburg
- Umpqua Indians Utility Corp - Canyonville
- United Sites Services - Merlin
- West Coast Contracting - Cottage Grove
- Zwald Transport - Tillamook

Public Entities

- City of Canby
- City of Canyonville
- City of Coquille
- City of Cottage Grove
- City of Florence
- City of Glendale
- City of Gold Beach
- City of Lakeside
- City of Oakland
- City of Port Orford
- City of Powers
- City of Riddle
- City of Rogue River
- City of Yachats
- City of Yoncalla
- Lakeside Water District
- Sutherlin Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Umpqua Basin Water Association
- Winchester Bay Sanitary District

WHY DO WE NEED HELP?

There are several reasons, but let's start with the biggest one which is the fact that our greatest limiting factor is nitrogen production.

Farmers normally want all the nitrogen they can get. In our situation, however, we have more nitrogen than we know what to do with sometimes.

Let me take you through the process. . .

A load comes into the facility and it's checked for pH, then screened, measured and discharged into the facility.

Then it's digested through time and detention in a anaerobic 15,000,000 gallon covered and sealed lagoon.

After that, it is pumped over to the de-watering facility where the organics are removed by either a belt press, centrifuge, gravity thickener, or a diffused air facility. The filtered water is then sent up to the filtrate ponds for storage until it is able to be irrigated during our irrigation season.

Here's where it gets complicated. . .

The Bio Solids that are dewatered into what is called "cake" is trucked to other farms for land application as fertilizer. At this time, we have adequate acres to accommodate that process.

Where our biggest problem lies, is the percentage of total nitrogen that's still present in our filtrate water after it leaves the dewatering facility. The filtrate water on an average as it leaves the dewatering facility has an average ammonia content of around 900 mg/L.

CONTINUED...

So now let's do that math on the filtrate water verses acres of ground. Keep in mind, that our permit allows us to put 100 pounds of plant available nitrogen on our ground per acre per year.

In recent years, we have taken in around 20,000,000 gallons per year.

20,000,0000 converts to approximately 15,000,000 gallons of filtrate water, and the rest goes out as bio solids "cake".

In order for this process to work financially, we need to irrigate the filtrate water right around our facility, on our own ground. We currently have about 218 acres that is available to put filtrate or recycled water on.

Here's the math:

15,000,000 gallons of filtrate with an ammonia content of 900mg/L.

We won't worry about the nitrite and the nitrate at this point, because coming out of an anaerobic facility, the main source of nitrogen produced is going to be ammonia.

900mg/L multiplied by the weight of water 8.34 pounds = 7,506 pounds of nitrogen.

According to the EPA, 50% of ammonia will dissipate during the irrigation process before it is utilized by the plant.

$$(7,506 \times .50 = 3,753)$$

Leaving us with 3,753 pounds of plant available nitrogen per million gallons of water.

Multiply that by 15,000,000 and arrive at 56,295 pounds of plant available nitrogen from the water as it leaves the dewatering facility.

56,295 divided by 100 pounds per acre, is a result of 563 acres needed to stay within our permit parameters.

As mentioned before, we have 218 acres on the property surrounding the facility.

SO, HOW DO WE CURRENTLY MEET OUR PERMIT PARAMETERS?

DENITRIFICATION.

We have to treat the water through a process called denitrification.

Denitrification happens when you put oxygen into the water, which nitrifies the ammonia, converts it to nitrite, then through further oxygenation, it turns into nitrate, and then you have to turn the oxygen off, which causes the nitrate to be digested, anaerobically, and gassed off as nitrous oxide.

That is the process we have to take the water through in order to bring the nitrogen numbers down to the level that don't overload our pastures and push the nutrients past the root zone; so that we can avoid polluting ground water.

It sounds simple enough, but it's not. During the process when you oxidize the ammonia into nitrite, and when then into nitrate, you actually multiply the pounds of nitrogen by 3.76 times.

As previously stated, the EPA allows you to figure that ammonia dissipates 50% of itself when you irrigate it on the ground. However, nitrite and nitrate do not, and are counted pound for pound. therefore, during the process of denitrification, you produce around seven times the amount of plant available nitrogen before you reduce it to an acceptable level. That takes time. Sometimes more time than we have in our permit. Our irrigation season is May 1 through October 1. As you can imagine, the processing of this waste anaerobically, in conjunction with the dewatering process, denitrification process, and the actual irrigating of the recycled water, all within the permit parameters of loading rates and application seasons can become extremely complicated. If we have a slip up, then our facility becomes full and is shut down, leaving Southern Oregon in serious trouble.

SOLUTION

The main things that we need is more filtrate storage capacity and dry storage for Bio Solids cake in the winter time. We also have the need for back up equipment, as well as more land for Bio Solids application.

I showed you the math on the filtrate coming out of the dewatering system.

If we have two years worth of filtrate storage, then the equation changes dramatically! If we're able to put filtrate in storage for 12 months in advance, and let it naturally digest in a facultative pond. That changes the strength of the water to around 10 mg/l versus the 900 mg/l that we were dealing with before. Now instead of dealing with 3,753 pounds of ammonia per million gallons we are dealing with a little over 83 pounds per million gallons of water. That would mean that we would be producing a total of 1,245 pounds of nitrogen for 15,000,000 gallons of water and could handle all that recycled water on 12.5 acres. That resulting in being able to feasibly irrigate 261,000,000 gallons on our current property.

So that not only takes away all of the problems with overloading, but it also takes away all of the logistic problems of timing and everything else that goes along with it. It completely stabilizes the program where southern Oregon has nothing to worry about with this waste stream for decades to come.

Heard Farms Wastewater Treatment Proposed Project Cost Breakdown

Northern Facility

Property in the north	\$2,500,000
Dry Beds	\$2,000,000
Pond Construction & Liners	\$1,000,000
Unloading & Headworks	\$500,000
Engineering	\$75,000
	<u>\$6,075,000</u>

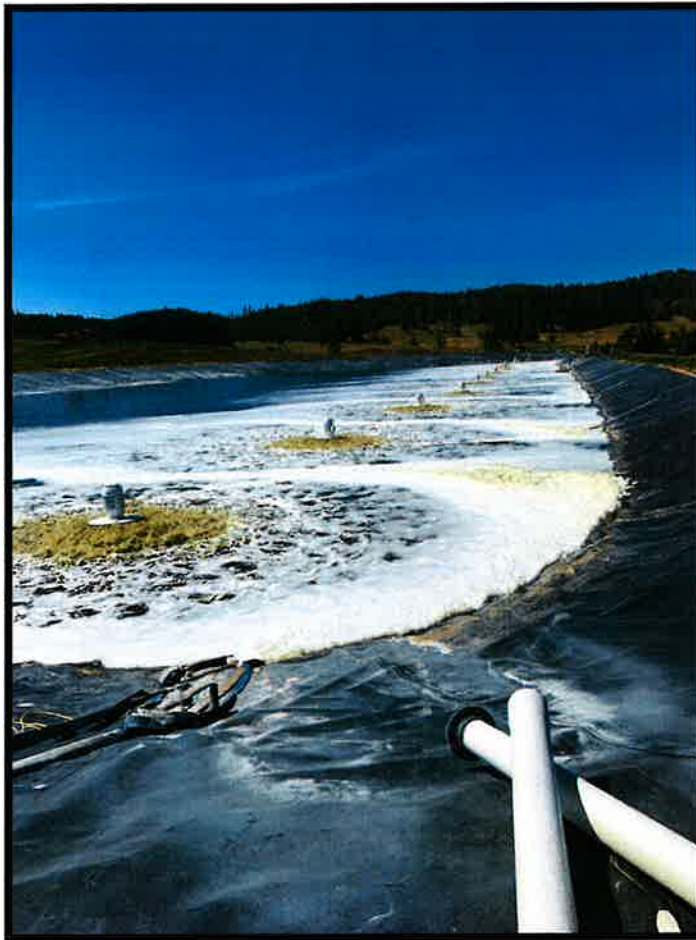
Roseburg Facility Upgrades

Evaporators	\$250,000
Pond	\$400,000
Drying Beds	\$2,000,000
Trucks	\$600,000
Irrigation	\$150,000
Engineering	\$75,000
Dry Cake Storage	\$350,000
	<u>\$3,825,000</u>

Total **\$9,900,000**

15 million in property, equipment, and improvements previously invested.

Aerated Filtrate Ponds



Discharge from Dewatering Facility



Products of Beneficial Reuse



Beneficial Reuse Enhances Wildlife



TESTIMONIES



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
City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield, Oregon 97477
(541) 726-3694
FAX (541) 726-2309

Operations

*Michelle Miranda
Wastewater Director
City of Eugene
410 River Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97404
(541) 682-8600
FAX (541) 682-8601

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.

March 12, 2025

Page 2 of 2

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, appearing to read "Matt Stouder".

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



City of Canby

Public Works

PO Box 930
1470 NE Territorial Road
Canby, OR 97013

Phone: 503.266.0798
Fax: 503.266.7238
www.canbyoregon.gov

Monica Stone

City of Canby, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor
1480 NE Territorial Road
Canby, Oregon 97013
stonem@canbyoregon.gov
503-266-0648

March 10, 2025

Dear Oregon State Senate,

Subject: SB 956 - Letter of Support for Heard Farms Solids Handling Expansion

I am writing to express my strong support for funding to expand the solids handling capacity at Heard Farms, a critical partner in managing biosolids for our community. For the past 10 years, Heard Farms has provided a reliable and environmentally responsible solution for our wastewater solids, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations while supporting sustainable land application practices. However, with their current capacity reaching its limit, investment in infrastructure expansion is essential to continue this vital service.

This funding is crucial for long-term waste management sustainability, enabling us to handle our solids efficiently for the next 20 years. Without this expansion, alternative disposal methods would not only be significantly more costly but could also increase environmental impacts and regulatory challenges. Supporting this project aligns with the state's goals for responsible waste management, resource recovery, and environmental stewardship.

I respectfully urge your support for this funding initiative, which will directly benefit municipalities, wastewater treatment facilities, and the broader community by ensuring continued, cost-effective, and sustainable solids management. Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information is needed.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to supporting infrastructure improvements that benefit both public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Monica Stone

WWTP Supervisor
City of Canby, Oregon



City of Florence

250 Hwy 101, Florence, OR 97439
www.ci.florence.or.us

Testimony in Support of Oregon SB956

Mike Miller

Public Works Director, City of Florence

March 11, 2025

Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

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

My name is Mike Miller, and I am writing to express my strong support for SB956, which allocates a \$10 million grant to Heard Farms to expand its wastewater treatment infrastructure. This investment is not just about upgrading a facility—it is a commitment to safeguarding public health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth in our region.

Heard Farms has played a critical role in wastewater management, helping Florence and other Oregon communities in addressing the challenges of responsible and efficient biosolids disposal. With growing population demands, industrial expansion, and increasing environmental regulations, the need for modernized and expanded wastewater treatment capacity has never been greater. This bill provides the necessary funding to:

1. **Enhance Treatment Capabilities** – Improving wastewater treatment infrastructure ensures that harmful pollutants are properly managed, protecting Oregon’s rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources.
2. **Support Agricultural and Industrial Growth** – Many local businesses, communities and farms rely on wastewater treatment facilities. Expanding Heard Farms’ capacity will help sustain regional economic activities while meeting environmental compliance standards.
3. **Promote Public Health and Environmental Protection** – Effective wastewater management reduces the risks of contamination and waterborne diseases, making our communities safer and healthier.
4. **Create Jobs and Strengthen Local Economies** – Infrastructure investments stimulate job creation in construction, engineering, and ongoing facility operations, benefiting both local workers and the broader economy.

Public Works
2675 Kingwood St.
(541) 997-4106

**City Manager /
City Recorder**
250 Highway 101
(541) 997-3437

**Community Development:
Planning & Building**
250 Highway 101
(541) 997-8237

**Finance /
Utility Billing**
250 Highway 101
(541) 997-3436

Justice Center
900 Greenwood St.
(541) 997-3515

Florence Events Center
715 Quince St.
(541) 997-1994



By passing SB956, Oregon will take a significant step forward in addressing critical wastewater challenges while ensuring that public and private sector partners can continue their essential work in environmental stewardship and resource management.

I urge this committee to support SB956 and help advance this vital infrastructure investment for the benefit of our communities, environment, and economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Mike Miller
Public Works Director
City of Florence

Public Works
2675 Kingwood St.
(541) 997-4106

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Florence Events Center
715 Quince St.
(541) 997-1994





Southern Septic Service, Inc

(541)459-2824

P.O Box 797, Sutherlin, OR 97479


RE: SB956

Letter of Testimony in favor of SB956 dated March 10, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am a 3rd generation septic pumper located in Douglas County and the 3rd generation to use Heard Farms to dispose of septic waste. While neither my father nor grandfather are living, I know they would be in support of this grant. It will allow Heard Farms to make important improvements to the facility in Douglas County that would allow for me and my competitors to continue to do business in Douglas County. It is also important because it will allow them to build additional facilities north to help take the pressure off the facility in Douglas County, allowing for quicker dump times, and I would think less downtime at the current facility and provide added services up north. As a business owner in Douglas County, it is very important to me to do as much business locally as possible. These improvements would help me to keep that goal as well as keep a convenient location to dump our waste.

Thank you,


Amanda Hayes, President

Nobody sticks their nose in our business!

Friday March 7th, 2025

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

Milah Weld

Financial Administrator

Office : (541) 687-6764

Physical : 2640 Hwy 99 N Eugene OR 97402

Mailing : 4325 Commerce St Ste 111-406 Eugene OR 97402



-
- 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.

Submitter: Marcus Brenden
On Behalf Of: Heard Farms
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956
Senate Committee,

The city of Glendale, like many of the surrounding communities, benefits greatly from the support Heard Farms provides in regard to wastewater management. They have come through for us when we needed them, and I hope they will be around for years to come.

Marcus Brenden
City of Glendale
Head of Public Works

Submitter: Dawn A Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

Topic: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment SB956

City of Canyonville, as do others around this community, as well as many throughout Oregon, greatly benefit from the facilities and services provided by Heard Farms. Heard Farms provide a service in wastewater management that cannot be measured. Heard Farms has been there for us any time we need their services. Dick Heard with Heard Farms has the knowledge and experience in the field of Waste Water Management that is like no other facility in the state.

Submitter: Gary Dagit

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

Hi, this Gary Dagit, I over see the operation of the sewer treatment plant for the City of Coquille and we'll as the City of Myrtle Point. Both located on the Coquille River watershed in Coos County. We often use the Services of Heard Farms. I find them as a needed resource for the placement of biosolids after treatment.

As we see more and more regulations set in place and the talk of closing landfills to biosolids in the next decade, places like Heards farms offer a sound and beneficial alternative to the people of the state.

Submitter: Cody Valance
On Behalf Of: Organic West Creamery
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

To Whom it may concern,

I oversee the disposal of wastewater for Organic West Creamery in Myrtle Point. We use Heard Farms on a weekly basis to dispose of our solids from the wastewater here at the plant. Heard farms has come through for us on many occasions to keep the plant running and not overburden the city wastewater plant. They have been a great partner in wastewater management for us as well as many others.

Submitter: Raymond Davenport

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956 ~

Heard Farms is a valuable asset to the customers they serve in the State. I support any future development of Heard Farms facilities.

Thank you,

Ray Davenport
WBSD Manager.

Submitter: Brad Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

Umpqua Basin Water Association, as do others around this community, as well as many throughout Oregon, greatly benefit from the the facilities and services provided by Heard Farms. Heard Farms provide a service in wastewater management that can not be measured. Dick Heard with Heard Farms has the knowledge and experience in the field of Waste Water Management that is like no other facility in the state.

Submitter: Jody Gardner
On Behalf Of: Heard Farms
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

On Behalf of Heard Farms, the City of Sutherlin strongly supports SB956. The City of Sutherlin benefits considerably from the services that Heard Farms offers our community.

Without Heard Farms services our sludge disposal costs would increase dramatically. Heard Farms is a valuable asset to the surrounding communities and businesses that they serve. We greatly appreciate their services to the City of Sutherlin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Gardner
Wastewater Division Manager
City of Sutherlin

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 suppling 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

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