



City Manager

191 E. Main Street
Carlton, OR 97111
Phone: (503) 852-7575
www.ci.carlton.or.us

**Testimony in Support
of HB 3655**

March 17, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 3655 – Certification for Lagoon Wastewater Treatment Operators

Dear Chair Representative Lively, Vice-Chairs Representative Gamba and Representative Levy, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express Carlton's support for House Bill 3655, which directs the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop an examination and certification program for operators of lagoon wastewater treatment systems. This measure is essential for ensuring that Oregon has a qualified workforce to maintain these critical systems, particularly in small rural communities like Carlton.


Wastewater lagoon systems play a vital role in wastewater treatment; however, a significant challenge faced by these communities is the lack of certified and qualified operators who can effectively manage these systems. A certification program that recognizes operators with at least one year of experience or who meet other educational and experiential requirements will assist communities in succession planning and enhance their resilience, minimizing potential operational disruptions and ensuring regulatory compliance.

House Bill 3655 provides a practical solution by establishing a clear certification pathway for operators, ensuring they receive the necessary training and testing to maintain wastewater lagoon systems safely and effectively. By creating a pipeline of skilled professionals, this legislation strengthens Oregon's infrastructure resilience and safeguards public health and the environment.

Furthermore, the bill supports succession planning, ensuring that small communities can have multiple experienced wastewater operators who can cover one another in emergencies and can be replaced by qualified individuals as they retire or leave the workforce. This is particularly important for small communities like Carlton, where resources are limited and access to trained personnel is often scarce.

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 3655 to protect our resources, strengthen our wastewater treatment infrastructure, and support rural communities in Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Shannon Beaucaire
City Manager