



03/16/2025

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

Subject: Letter of Support for HB 3655 – Lagoon Wastewater System Certification

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

I am writing on behalf of the City of Halsey to express our strong support for House Bill 3655, which seeks to establish a dedicated certification program for operators of lagoon-based wastewater treatment systems in Oregon. As the Mayor of Halsey, I understand firsthand the critical role that wastewater treatment plays in protecting public health, preserving our environment, and supporting economic growth in small and rural communities.

Lagoon wastewater systems serve many municipalities across Oregon, including Halsey, providing an effective and sustainable method of wastewater treatment. However, the current certification framework does not adequately recognize the unique expertise required to operate and maintain these systems. HB 3655 addresses this issue by ensuring that operators receive training and certification specifically tailored to lagoon-based treatment, improving efficiency, compliance, and environmental stewardship.

This bill will help small communities like ours by:

1. Ensuring Proper Training – Specialized certification will equip operators with the necessary skills to manage lagoon wastewater systems safely and efficiently.
2. Improving Regulatory Compliance – Dedicated certification will reduce compliance challenges by aligning training with system-specific requirements.
3. Supporting Workforce Development – Establishing a clear certification pathway will encourage workforce retention and recruitment in rural areas.

By passing HB 3655, the Legislature will provide much-needed support to Oregon communities that rely on lagoon wastewater treatment. This bill represents a commonsense approach to improving



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public health protections and environmental outcomes while acknowledging the unique needs of smaller municipalities.

I urge you to support HB 3655 and ensure that lagoon wastewater system operators receive the training and certification necessary to continue serving our communities effectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lachenbruch
Mayor
City of Halsey