

Subject: Urgent Action Needed for Waste Management Challenges

Dear Co-Chair – Rep. Rob Nosse

I'm reaching out to bring attention to a critical issue that would absolutely have to be done if the State wants to support expanding housing. This subject often goes unnoticed in discussions about housing and commercial growth: the effective management of heavy waste streams. While the necessity for wastewater treatment plants is widely recognized, the complexities associated with the substantial waste generated by these systems require urgent consideration. The solution that I am offering would be pennies on the dollar compared to what would be spent if we had to upgrade 20 or 30 municipalities to do the same thing.

Every day, we encounter heavy waste that is not designed to re-enter municipal wastewater systems—this includes biosolids from digesters, waste from rural septic systems, portable restrooms, grease trap waste from restaurants, RV parks, casinos, food manufacturers, holding tanks, and even waste from state parks and rest areas. Each of these categories represents significant waste challenges that we have dedicated ourselves to managing for the past 27 years.

However, we currently face a serious capacity crisis. To adequately upgrade our facilities to manage this waste effectively for the next two decades, we require a significant financial investment—between \$10 million to \$20 million. Unfortunately, despite being a profitable company, this financial burden is beyond our current resources. Taking on such debt would not only jeopardize our operations but also plunge us into bankruptcy before we see any return on investment. Even with increased income in the future, we would still struggle to support this debt.

This situation highlights a pressing need for cities to receive financial support to enhance their sewer systems. As it stands, if the state opts to upgrade every municipality to manage this waste, the costs could easily exceed \$200 million, requiring decades of implementation—an option that cities are understandably reluctant to even pursue.

Moreover, our processes allow us to beneficially reuse this waste by producing pasture and hay for livestock, thus preventing further pollution of our streams. If municipal facilities were to handle this waste instead, it would lead to detrimental environmental consequences.

I urge you to take a closer look at the gravity of this situation. Immediate attention and action are needed to ensure sustainable waste management in our communities. I am more than willing to discuss this critical issue further, whether in person or via phone.

Thank you for considering the urgency of this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Heard

Heard Farms Inc

541-430-9809



Metropolitan Wastewater MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



partners in wastewater management

March 12, 2025

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

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.

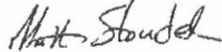
March 12, 2025

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 blue ink that reads "Matt Stouder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible script.

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



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHRIS BOICE

1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 ➤ Roseburg, Oregon 97470

March 12, 2025

RE: SB956 – Letter of Support

I, Douglas County Commissioner Chris Boice, am submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill 956 pertaining to wastewater treatment grant application submitted by Heard Farms to help facilitate the expansion of their currently active and well used wastewater treatment facility.

Heard Farms currently processes the biproduct of wastewater treatment plants for over 25 municipalities in Southern Oregon with no other option. That means that if there is even the slightest “hiccup” in their operations, every one of those municipalities has no other option and the entire system is backed up.

Heard Farms is continued operation is crucial to everyone in Southwestern Oregon and as you, are highly regulated by the DEQ.

Heard Farms works hard to keep the process compliant will all regulations and provides a very important service, however, they, and the State needs to have some flexibility and margin in the operation for contingencies. This grant will make that possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Chris Boice, Douglas Board of County Commissioners



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

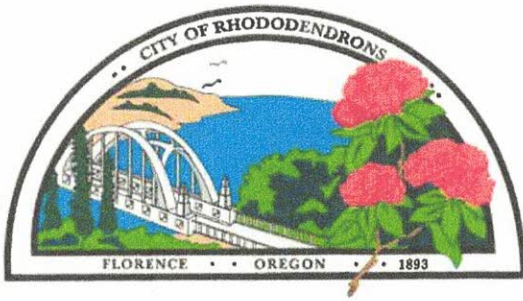
I am writing to express my strong support for funding to expand the solids handling capacity at Heard Farms, a critical partner in managing biosolids for our community. For the past 10 years, Heard Farms has provided a reliable and environmentally responsible solution for our wastewater solids, ensuring 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


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

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

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



From: K Wilson coriddle647@gmail.com
Subject: City of Riddle letter of support for grant
Date: Mar 31, 2025 at 3:12:30 PM
To: richardheard2339@icloud.com

Hello Mr. Heard,

Attached is a letter of support from the City of Riddle for your grant application.
Please let me know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,
Kathy

Kathleen Wilson
Manager/Recorder
City of Riddle
[541-874-2571](tel:541-874-2571)
coriddle647@gmail.com

- City of Riddle -

(541) 874-2571 P.O. Box 143 • Riddle, Oregon 97459 Fax (541) 874-0013 E-mail: coriddle647@gmail.com

City
Government

Public
Works

Water
Quality

Wastewater
Treatment

Water
Treatment

Parks and
Recreation

Public
Education

March 31, 2025

Re: Heard Farms, Inc. Grant Application
Heard Farms Inc.
Richard Heard
578 Rogers Road
Roseburg, OR 97470

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of a grant concerning Heard Farms, Inc. The City of Riddle has utilized Heard Farm's sludge hauling services for our waste water system facility since 2008. Heard Farms makes it possible for the City of Riddle to operate our waste water facility within the regulations set by the Department of Environmental Quality. The City of Riddle does not have the capacity, resources, or financial ability to acquire the property that would be necessary to treat the sludge.

This grant is imperative for Head Farm's to serve not only our City, but many cities with the issues and restrictions.

Because of the importance of Heard Farm's services to our waste water system facility system's maintenance and operations, I am asking that you strongly consider and approve the grant requested by Heard Farms, Inc.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wilson

Kathleen Wilson
Manager/Recorder
City of Riddle
541-874-2571
coriddle647@gmail.com

"The City of Riddle is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

From: Faye Stewart pwdirector@cottagegrove.org
Subject: State Funding Support Letter
Date: Apr 3, 2025 at 2:10:21 PM
To: richardheard2339@icloud.com
Cc: Shauna Neigh engassistant@cottagegrove.org, Ryan Kimball
water@cottagegrove.org

Richard,

It was nice meeting you yesterday. I have attached a support letter from Cottage Grove for your funding efforts in Salem. Good luck. Please let me know if you need any changes or how we might help you moving forward.

Sincerely,

Faye Stewart
Public Works & Development Director
City of Cottage Grove



Public Works Department

400 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove, Oregon

(541) 942-3349
www.cottagegroveor.gov

April 3, 2025

Faye Stewart
City of Cottage Grove Public Works Director
400 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424
pwdirector@cottagegrove.org
541-767-4120

RE: Support for Heard Farms Expansion Funding Request

Dear Honorable Chair Sollman and Vice Chair Brock Smith,

On behalf of the City of Cottage Grove and the Cottage Grove Water Reclamation Facility, I am writing to ask that you support Heard Farms' grant request to expand their operations capacity.

The City of Cottage Grove partnered with Heard Farms in 2013 to manage our Class B Bio Solids, following a multimillion-dollar rebuild of the facility. The City found that the former method of handling bio solids was not effective and contracted with Heard Farms to further process the bio solids and utilize them in their operations. At that time, the City had no other options for processing the solids.

Over the past 5 years, City staff has researched alternative options and equipment that the treatment plant could utilize to further process the solids to a Class A material, which could be

used at the City golf course and parks. In 2023, the City contracted with West Yost to perform a feasibility study and create 15% design documents to construct an onsite solids dryer. The feasibility study revealed that constructing the dryer would cost the City over \$12 million. Currently, there are 4,010 utility accounts served in Cottage Grove. The study also found that the utility rate increase necessary to service the debt would not be practicable or supported by the City Council and community. City staff has continued to pursue other options to process the solids but has not yet found a feasible solution.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you support Heard Farms' funding request to ensure they can continue to provide this vital service to the City of Cottage Grove.

Sincerely,



Faye Stewart
Public Works Director
City of Cottage Grove



CITY OF PORT ORFORD

♦ 555 W. 20th St. ♦ P.O. Box 310, Port Orford, OR 97465 ♦ Ph: 541-366-4568 ♦ fx: 877-281-5307 ♦

The city of Port Orford supports Herd farms, this is a needed facility and is the only way for small cities to handle Bio-solids removal and disposal. Heard farms is a great help to the communities and necessary in order to function. We have looked into the cost of installing a system to handle the bio-solids in house, but it is not feasible. We are just too small of a community to afford the cost let alone the operation & maintenance. It is just cost prohibitive for a City with a population 1100 and Water and Waste-Water rates being already high.

Sincerely,,

Director of Public Works, City of Port Orford

John Isadore

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

From the City of Oakland:

The City of Oakland is a small historic town incorporated in 1878 providing services to approximately 450 homes and 950 people located in Douglas County, Oregon.

In addition to our citizens, we provide support services to the Oakland Rural Fire District, Oakland Unified School District, Douglas Fire Protection Agency and an additional 2500 residences in the surrounding area. The City of Oakland has become the primary resource for water, sewer and emergency services equipment in Northeast Douglas County.

The City's water system waste basin is directly connected to the sanitary sewer via the collections system in keeping with State of Oregon DEQ and OHA regulations. Since the Archie Creek Fire the increase in unprocessed waste water and sludge must be handled by our sewer plant. This situation compounds our need to dispose of double the amount of sludge since before the fire.

Heard Farms has been the primary sludge hauling contractor for the City of Oakland for over 20 years. The cost of sludge hauling to a licensed DEQ facility is a fraction of the cost to purchase additional equipment and land to complete the essential processing of sludge.

To complete the sludge process the City would need funding for engineered plans, the acquisition land for facilities and equipment to process the sludge to Class A level, the only level accepted by a landfill.

The cost of a screw press and drying bed or an alternative reed bed, to replace Heard Farms service, would cost approximately \$3,600,000 to implement. The payment on a \$3,600,000 loan would be approximately \$180,000 per year, based on a 4% interest rate.

State and Federal regulations along with rising costs have resulted in Oakland having some of the highest water and sewer rates in the County. A typical Oakland utility customer currently pays a combined water/sewer rate of \$150.77 per month per household. \$3,600,000 over the expected 20-year life of the system divided by our approximate 425 utility customers could cost an additional \$35.29 per month per home. This would bring the standard monthly payment to \$186.12 for a single family dwelling within the city limits. The increase could have a critical impact on our largely retired community. It is difficult to absorb such a large increase on a fixed income.

Heard Farms is the only viable solution in existence that meets the three requirements of the City which are: to comply with State and Federal regulations, to accommodate the waste sludge within an existing operational budget and to provide a solution that operators can manage.

We urge the passage of SB 956 because it will fundamentally benefit Oakland as well as 20 or more small cities struggling to maintain facilities and provide utility service with affordable cost to their citizens.

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

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 supplying 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: Stephanie Patterson
On Behalf Of: Powers Public Works
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB956

The City of Powers public works department supports Heard Farms' request for grant funds to improve infrastructure. The City of Powers utilizes the services of Heard Farms numerous times per year to haul solids from our wastewater treatment facility, at a great expense to the city. Improvements to Heard Farms' infrastructure is important to small cities like Powers in order to keep costs from rising significantly and to ensure that our critical facility operations are not impacted.



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.

I STARTED AT ROTO ROOTER EUGENE 1991 ACROSS ST FROM EUGENE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. I HELPED WAS INVOLVED WITH INPUT ABOUT THEN NEW GREASE TRAP MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR BARS N RESTARAUNTS. IN EUGENE, SPRINGFIELD. EUGENE WAS HIGHEST PRICE DUMP FEES IN STATE OF OREGON. 24 CENTS PER GALLON DUMP FEES. I ASKED MANY TIMES IF EUG WOULD PLEASE LOWER PRICES. THEY SAID NO THEY'RE ONLY BREAKING EVEN AT THAT PRICE. YEARS LATER DICK HEARD STARTED TAKING SEPTIC WASTE N GREASE N ONLY CHARGING .12 CENTS A GALLON DUMP FEES. EUG SENT OUT NOTICES TO ALL HAULERS TO MEET N DISCUSS LOWERING THEIR DUMP FEES TO .12.5 CENTS PER GAL. TO GET BUSINESS BACK. I CALLED DICK HEARD N INVITED HIM TO MEETING THAT EUG NEVER TOLD HIM ABOUT. WHAT A GREAT SUPRIZE TO EUG WHEN I INTRODUCED DICK TO THEM. NOW EUG STARTED MAKING MANITORY FOR ALL RESTARAUNTS TO DOCUMENT GREASE TRAP MAINTENANCE RECORDS. NOW EUG HAS STOPPED TAKING GREASE N STILL DEMANDING RESTARAUNTS KEEP MAINTAINING GREASE TRAP MAINTENANCE RECORDS TELLING OWNERS WILL B FINED IF NOT CLEANING TRAPS ON TIME. WE HAVE NO WHERE TO TAKE CUZ HEARD FARMS HAD TO STOP TAKING GREASE ALSO. THIS EUG DEMAND WILL CAUSE RESTARAUNTS TO HAVE TO START DOING THINGS ILLEGALLY. THIS HAS CAUSED MANY DRAIN BACK UPS. CAUSING RESTARAUNTS TO PAY LARGE AMOUNTS OF THEY'RE ONCE WAS

PROFITS TO CLEAR DRAINS. N SHUT DOWN BUSINESS. CAN'T
STAY OPEN WITHOUT WORKING BATH RMS. CLOSED ! MORE
PROFIT GONE DUE TO EUG NOT PROVIDIND DISPOSAL.
RESTARAUNTS N BARS ADD SO MUCH TO OUR ECONOMY. THE
LOCAL BAR N RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION WITH OPPOX 900 TO
1000 BARS N RESTAURANTS. I T HAS BEEN BROGHT UP ABOUT
ALL TOGETHER BRINGING SOME KIND OF CLASS ACTION
AGAINST EUG. I RECOMMENDED WAITING CUZ EUG WITH
STATE ARE WORKING DISCUESSING POSSIABLE \$10,000,000.00
GRANT FOR DICK HEARD TO INSTALL NEW WASTE PLANT. LAW
SUITE COULD GET WAY MORE COSTLY THAN THE GRANT TO
SOLVE GREASE DISPOSAL. THIS IS LIKE DMV REFUSING TO
REGISTER YOUR CAR WHILE POLICE CONTINUE TO ISSUE
TICKETS. EUGENE WASTEWATER DEMANDING MAINTENANCE
PROGRAM WITH OUT PROVIDING SOLUTION

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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.

Winchester Bay Sewer District