

Submitter: Richard Heard  
On Behalf Of: Heard Farms  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

May 9 oral testimony for Heard Farms

My name is Dick, Heard, and I am the owner of Heard Farms, a wastewater treatment facility in Southern Oregon. We've been in business for 27 years treating Oregon's waste water needs.

We treat Bio Solids from over 20 municipalities. We process approximately 80% of the rural residential septic systems from above Lane county to the California border, extending over to Brookings and up Yachats. We treat portable toilet waste, grease trap waste from all the restaurants in that same area, waste from multiple food manufacturers, park's and recreation areas, casinos, rest areas, and RV parks.

Our facility was designed to process this type of heavy waste water, municipal waste water treatment plants are not.

Expanding Heard farms would be a more cost-effective solution compared to upgrading 20 city plants. This expansion would meet the growing needs of the region without straining local economies. We are seeking \$10 million to address the issue in Southern and Western Oregon. However, if you proceed to upgrade 20 municipalities to meet the growing need, you would spend in an excess of \$200 million.

Heard farms beneficially reuses all the treated material as soil amendment. None of this heavy waist is discharged into the waters of the state. This sustainable farming practice contributes to feeding us instead of polluting our streams.

Over the past 27 years, Heard Farms has invested over \$15 million in facility construction and upgrades. However, we are falling behind! We need to upgrade our facility and in addition we need to construct a facility north of Lane County to make it work efficiently. These upgrades will be costly and require external funding. We would not be able to sustain the debt if we borrowed the money privately.

In conclusion, if Oregon intends to construct more housing to accommodate, its growing population, we will have to treat more waste. Currently, we are out of capacity and we must act quickly to fix the problem. I hope you recognize the seriousness of this situation and can help us keep Oregon healthy.

Please read the testimonies submitted in writing by all the cities who really need this service.