



## Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association

*Taking Leadership in the Onsite Industry*

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April 2, 2013

Senator Chris Edward, Co Chair  
Representative Ben Unger, Co Chair  
Email: [waysandmeans.naturalresourcessub@state.or.us](mailto:waysandmeans.naturalresourcessub@state.or.us)

RE: Letter in Support of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Budget SB5526

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association (O2WA) has reviewed the budget proposed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and — as onsite industry professionals — we would like to go on record in its support. The O2WA board feels that it is critical for the onsite program in Oregon to continue to move forward with the proposed budget. The revised policy package would maintain the current level of customer service and oversight in the onsite program through fee changes that would generate sufficient revenue to restore an administrative support position (AS 1) and 0.5 FTE of a regional onsite specialist position (NRS 4).

Over 30% of Oregonians dispose of wastewater from their homes and businesses through the use of septic systems. The siting, design, installation and ongoing operation and maintenance of septic systems are regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality. Without proper oversight septic systems can fail or malfunction, and pollute land and waters, creating a public health hazard. Most septic systems are owned by individuals, and even one failed system can negatively affect a community.

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association represents all those serving Oregon's onsite industry, including but not limited to regulators, inspectors, educators, designers, installers, contractors, service providers, septic tank pumpers, septage treatment operators, equipment manufacturers, and property owners. We strongly support the passage of the DEQ budget.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this letter and for your consideration of our position.

Regards,

Robb Barnes  
President  
Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association