



Working with more than 95 community wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies
to protect Oregon's water

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6 March 2015

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97210

Re: Support for HB 2449 – ODOE Biomass Tax Credit Bill

Submitted electronically to beth.patрино@state.or.us

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) is a private, not-for-profit organization of Oregon's wastewater treatment and stormwater management utilities, along with associated professionals. Our 120+ statewide members are dedicated to protecting and enhancing Oregon's water quality and to treating wastewater in a sustainable manner.

The use of Fats, Oil & Grease (FOG) for energy recovery keeps excess FOG out of sewer lines, reduces utility costs, and provides a valuable energy resource for wastewater utilities.

- **Excess Fats, Oil And Grease - - Expensive For Sewer Rate Payers**

Inadequate grease controls at restaurants and other food service establishments such as bakeries, donut shops, hotels, supermarkets, meat processors, commercial kitchens, and coffee shops, send Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) into sewer collection pipes, increasing maintenance costs for all ratepayers. The grease can clog pipes, causing sewage to spill into streets and basements.

As an example, excess FOG costs Clean Water Services Washington County ratepayers \$4.2 million annually in diminished treatment capacity, increased energy costs and additional sewer line and pump station cleaning and maintenance. . The City of Portland spends about \$100,000 per year cleaning and repairing sewer lines clogged by grease, and about \$12 million a year to treat wastewater containing high concentrations of food waste. Wastewater discharges from commercial food service establishments are the main sources of FOG (fats, oil and grease) and other food waste in the city's sewer system.

Stephanie Eisner, Chair

Raj Kapur, Vice Chair

Michelle Cahill, Secretary/Treasurer

- **Valuable Energy Resource**

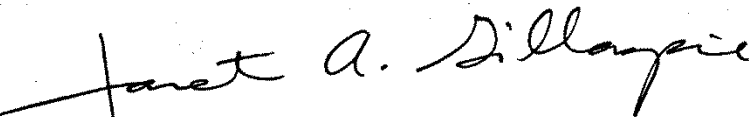
The City of Gresham is the first 'net energy zero' wastewater treatment plant in Oregon and one of only a handful in the nation. Wastewater treatment plants use a huge amount of energy. Through energy conservation, installation of a solar P/V system, and a FOG receiving station linked to two biogas generators, Gresham generates the power it needs internally to drive the treatment plant, producing both energy and clean water.

Biogas generators are also powering treatment plants in Eugene/Springfield, Tigard, Hillsboro, Pendleton, Medford, and Salem. Many communities have anaerobic digesters as part of their wastewater treatment process that could be coupled with a biogas generator in the future. Providing tax credits for FOG systems could be an incentive to add biogas generators to this existing public infrastructure.

ACWA supports HB 2449 and urges the Committee to support the bill also.

Please let me know if you have questions regarding FOG and its use for energy production at wastewater treatment plants in Oregon.

Very truly yours,



Janet A. Gillaspie
Executive Director