

HB 2179 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds onsite treatment of reclaimed water, agricultural or industrial process water or biosolids prior to land application as allowed use on any area zoned for exclusive farm use (ORS Chapter 215).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Productive uses for human manure
- Biosolids application to specific types of farmland allowed, subject to Department of Environmental Quality restrictions
- Treatment of biosolids in industrial facilities vs. onsite treatment using portable facilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Limits provisions of measure to onsite treatment prior to land application of reclaimed water, agricultural or industrial process water or biosolids using treatment facilities that are portable, temporary and transportable by truck trailer, as defined in ORS 801.580. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law establishes that agricultural use is an efficient means of conserving natural resources; that the preservation of land for agricultural use is a priority; and that the expansion of urban development into rural lands is of concern because of conflicts between farm and urban activities, such as noise, dust or odor, and loss of open spaces from such expansion (ORS 215.243). To address these issues, exclusive farm use designation limits the use of rural land by restricting uses that can have significant adverse effects on agricultural and forest land, farm and forest uses or accepted farming or forest practices (OAR 660-015-0000(3)). Counties are responsible for planning and zoning, subject to approval by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Certain nonfarm uses may be allowed on EFU lands. Among these is the land based application of reclaimed water, agricultural or industrial process water or biosolids for farm use.

House Bill 2179 would add the treatment of reclaimed water, agricultural or industrial process water or biosolids prior to land based application, to the list of nonfarm uses allowed on EFU land.