



ROSEBURG URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

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Monday, February 27, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Members, House Committee on Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: Letter of Support for HB3123

Chair Helm and Committee members,

The beneficial use of biosolids and reuse water is of significant importance to water professionals in Oregon. Beneficial reuse can only be attained if there is a defined benefit with no adverse effects. The land application of biosolids and reuse water is highly regulated with every effort of water professionals to protect the environment and their communities.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on House Bill (HB) 3123 relating to the study concerning PFAS in land application biosolids. As water professionals, we recognize the importance of addressing the potential threats from PFAS and related “forever chemicals” to public health and the environment in our communities. Clean water agencies receive these constituents as part of the waste stream and currently do not have effective means of treating them once they are received at the water reclamation facilities. As with all constituents that water professionals are tasked with controlling or removing from the waste stream we require science-based information to inform the decision-making process. Without credible information, the best path forward to protect the environment and the people in our communities cannot be attained.

HB3123 will provide the necessary funding to investigate the potential threat to the environment and public from PFAS. As a water professional and utility manager I am ready to participate in paying a portion of the cost of the study funded by this bill. The help to local clean water agencies from this bill will provide assistance in a time of increasing costs of providing for the safe, clean, and environmentally beneficial operation of water reclamation facilities throughout Oregon.

Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority supports the passage of HB3123, and the subsequent collaboration between the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon State University, and Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, to fund this critical scientific research to protect our State and the people that make Oregon their home.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

James V. Baird

James V. Baird
General Manager
Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority