



PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING

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February 28, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court Street NE, HR B
Salem, OR 97301

Support of House Bill 3123

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, and Members of the Committee:

As the wastewater service provider and biosolids generator in our community, the City of Albany strongly supports and urges your YES vote on House Bill (HB) 3123.

HB 3123 would fund and direct the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension/College of Agricultural Sciences of OSU to study the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in land applied biosolids on soil, water, and agricultural crops in select sites across the state. This study is needed because there is growing scientific evidence that exposure to PFAS substances may lead to a range of human health problems. PFAS compounds are contained in thousands of common consumer products and in some commercial and industrial processes. PFAS compounds are found almost everywhere in the environment and due to their strong chemical bonds, they do not break down easily and are known as “forever chemicals.” This presents a significant challenge for wastewater treatment facilities, like Albany’s, that receive PFAS pollution from industries, businesses, and households but are not designed to treat complex chemicals like PFAS, so they pass through to water and biosolids. This study is important for the City’s ongoing efforts to understand the presence of PFAS in municipal biosolids and its impact in the environment, so that the City can manage a sustainable biosolids program that benefits our community and landowners that apply biosolids as a soil amendment.

The City of Albany is supportive of this study and is willing to partner with the research agencies to make this program a success. Albany joins with other Oregon municipalities and agencies, such as the Oregon Association of Clean Water, League of Oregon Cities, and the Special Districts Association of Oregon, and urges you to support HB 3123.

Sincerely,

Chris Bailey
Public Works Director

CB:KFP:kc

c: Representative Shelly Boshart Davis, District 15 (via email Rep.ShellyBoshartDavis@oregonlegislature.gov)
Michael Martin, League of Oregon Cities (via email mmartin@orcities.org)
Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon (via email mark@mjlconsulting.com)
Susie Smith, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (via email smith@oracwa.org)

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