



# OREGONIANS FOR FOOD & SHELTER

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A non-profit coalition to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

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February 8, 2024

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Concerns regarding HB 4049

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 4049. Oregonians for Food & Shelter (OFS) is a diverse coalition with members across Oregon's natural resource sector, including many of Oregon's agricultural commodity groups and the forest products industry. Our members come together around the importance of pesticides, fertilizers, and biotechnology in producing and protect natural resources, and we advocate for science-based policies impacting these tools.

We appreciate the intent of this bill to understand whether local biosolids are contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and the potential impacts of that contamination to soils and crops. Many of our members use biosolids as fertilizer, in both organic and non-organic fields. However, the approach of testing private land and crops grown on that land could have reputational impacts for producers. Legacy and alternate source contamination could confound the results, and established methods for avoiding confounding variables have not been incorporated into the bill language.

Our members would support research to understand current levels of PFAS in local biosolids and controlled (greenhouse) experiments with local biosolids to understand the potential movement of PFAS into various soil types and non-food crops. This would yield important information about issues specific to Oregon and would help us understand what solutions might be needed.

The US EPA is currently engaged with other federal agencies on understanding the risks of PFAS in biosolids, and how to address them. Among their [principles for preventing and managing PFAS in biosolids](#) are 1) monitoring the levels that PFAS may be present in biosolids; 2) reducing the discharge of PFAS to prevent contamination of biosolids, and 3) options for wastewater systems to treat biosolids to remove PFAS contamination. We support alignment with these principles, and research that leads to tangible solutions that protect the beneficial use of biosolids and uphold the strong reputation of Oregon agriculture.

Sincerely,

**Katie Murray**  
Executive Director