

Submitter: Doris Cellarius

On Behalf Of: self

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB4049

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4049.

The study proposed in HB 4049 would provide important information to all who are concerned about whether the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) known to be present in biosolids are impacting soils and crops in Oregon.

Utilities that manage municipal wastewater need to know what might be happening when their biosolids are applied to the land. If PFAS are found at levels of concern EPA's "PFAS Roadmap" encourages wastewater facilities to address this as part of their NPDES permit program. They can ask their industrial dischargers to test and reveal if there are PFAS in the wastes they discharge to the sewer. If they do the NPDES permit can require the industrial discharger to treat its waste to reduce or prevent the PFAS from entering the sewer.

This puts the burden on the industry to treat the waste for PFAS before discharge or switch to safer alternative chemicals.

This is important. Businesses such as metal plating shops or paper mills may not realize that there are PFAS in their water discharges - but Oregon's farms and farm families need to know their soils are safe. Public and environmental health will benefit.

Please pass HB 4049 and provide the funds for this important research.

Doris Cellarius
Portland Oregon