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January 30, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR

Regarding: Support to Amend ORS 454.779, the septic loan program SB860

Dear Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee

The Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association (O2WA) supports amending ORS 454.779, the septic loan program.

O2WA represents the community of small business firms consisting of Onsite Wastewater System Installers, Pumpers, Maintenance Providers, Designers, along with State, County and City Regulators throughout Oregon who collectively protect the public health and environment from the adverse impacts of human sewage.

Our members serve clients who unfortunately do not always have the money to repair their septic systems in the manner required. This will help many Oregonians in the coming years.

The amendments would allow for grants in addition to loans. It also clarifies that MHPs and other multifamily housing are eligible beneficiaries of funding.

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to protecting Oregon's environment and for your consideration of the legislation needed to ensure effective and affordable public health protection.

Sincerely,

Edward Varga, Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association, President

Belinda Holcombe-Rasmussen, Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association, Executive Director