



City of Florence

250 Hwy 101, Florence, OR 97439
www.ci.florence.or.us

Testimony in Support of Oregon SB956

Mike Miller

Public Works Director, City of Florence

March 11, 2025

Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Miller, and I am writing to express my strong support for SB956, which allocates a \$10 million grant to Heard Farms to expand its wastewater treatment infrastructure. This investment is not just about upgrading a facility—it is a commitment to safeguarding public health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth in our region.

Heard Farms has played a critical role in wastewater management, helping Florence and other Oregon communities in addressing the challenges of responsible and efficient biosolids disposal. With growing population demands, industrial expansion, and increasing environmental regulations, the need for modernized and expanded wastewater treatment capacity has never been greater. This bill provides the necessary funding to:

1. **Enhance Treatment Capabilities** – Improving wastewater treatment infrastructure ensures that harmful pollutants are properly managed, protecting Oregon’s rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources.
2. **Support Agricultural and Industrial Growth** – Many local businesses, communities and farms rely on wastewater treatment facilities. Expanding Heard Farms’ capacity will help sustain regional economic activities while meeting environmental compliance standards.
3. **Promote Public Health and Environmental Protection** – Effective wastewater management reduces the risks of contamination and waterborne diseases, making our communities safer and healthier.
4. **Create Jobs and Strengthen Local Economies** – Infrastructure investments stimulate job creation in construction, engineering, and ongoing facility operations, benefiting both local workers and the broader economy.

Public Works
2675 Kingwood St.
(541) 997-4106

**City Manager /
City Recorder**
250 Highway 101
(541) 997-3437

**Community Development:
Planning & Building**
250 Highway 101
(541) 997-8237

**Finance /
Utility Billing**
250 Highway 101
(541) 997-3436

Justice Center
900 Greenwood St.
(541) 997-3515

Florence Events Center
715 Quince St.
(541) 997-1994

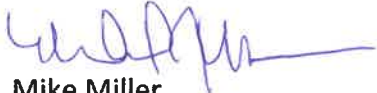


By passing SB956, Oregon will take a significant step forward in addressing critical wastewater challenges while ensuring that public and private sector partners can continue their essential work in environmental stewardship and resource management.

I urge this committee to support SB956 and help advance this vital infrastructure investment for the benefit of our communities, environment, and economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Mike Miller
Public Works Director
City of Florence



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