



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Council

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July 5, 2018

The Honorable Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court St. NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Use of Biosolids and Biosolid products in the Siletz River watershed

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to express the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians' deep concern about shipments and overuse of biosolids and biosolid products on agricultural lands in the Siletz watershed. The numbers of trucks carrying such waste products through the City of Siletz and continuing to local agricultural lands where the products are spread is ever-increasing. The change in the local environment – massive increases in algal growth in the river, reductions in populations of salmon, mussels, and other aquatic species, and increased health issues for the local population, is unmistakable. The Siletz Tribe joins other local governments such as Lincoln County and citizens in urging the State to immediately stop such shipments until such time as the environmental impacts of such shipments have been fully studied and all adverse impacts are eliminated.

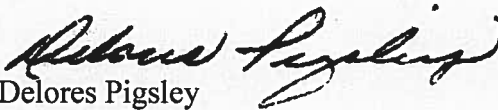
The use of biosolids and biosolid products shipped by local governments to be used on local private agricultural lands has never been fully studied or regulated by state or federal environmental authorities. While there are some pollutants in biosolids that the EPA has concluded pose substantial health risks for exposed persons, there are many other compounds and substances in biosolid products that adversely affect human health that the EPA and DEQ have never regulated or monitored. Adverse health effects on susceptible persons living near where these biosolid products have been used have been documented many times. Use of these materials has had demonstrated adverse impact on Siletz members and tribal legal interests such as the fish population in the Siletz River system.

The amount and quality of biosolid product use in our local community has increased dramatically without any increased state involvement or regulation. We strongly urge the State to immediately investigate this matter and come up with a plan of regulation and use before it spirals completely out of control. While we do understand the needs and desires of our

agricultural neighbors as well as the necessity for local governments to find a reasonable way to dispose of such products, such use cannot come at the cost of severe impact on the health of local community members and the local environment.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We would be glad to meet with you or your or agency staff to discuss this issue at greater length. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Delores Pigsley
Tribal Chairman

Cc: Siletz Tribal Council
Siletz Natural Resources Department
Tribal Attorney