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January 21, 2025

To: State Legislators

Econo Rooter Services, Inc. has been providing septic services in both Coos and Curry Counties for over 20 years. We care deeply for the wonderful people in our community and the beautiful land and waters we are blessed to live in. The nature of my work allows me to meet many new people each day and I'm always grateful for the wonderful people here. We have been partners with Craft3 from nearly the beginning and I have many stories of folks whose lives and homes have been saved by Craft3. I'm writing to request the State of Oregon continue to support them in their mission by continuing to fund Oregon's Clean Water loan program through HB 2168

Beyond being an amazing place to live, Coos and Curry Counties have three factors that make the services that Craft3 provides not just a nice-to-have but critical to the health of our community. First, Coos and Curry Counties have the 4th and 3rd lowest median house-hold incomes in Oregon. Most of my customers and the folks living here are hard working laborers; often living paycheck to paycheck but who have saved enough to enjoy a modest home of their own. For many it is the house they grew up in; passed on from generation to generation. I also see many folks living in mobile homes in very poor condition and often with children. Approximately one-fourth of my septic repair customers use Craft3 and for many of these folks without Craft3 they truly could not afford a repair.

The second factor that makes Craft3 critical to the community here is that the folks here are also often of an older age. Curry County has the second oldest population in Oregon and Coos County isn't too far behind. Many of the people here are on a fixed income. They have enough to get by but often don't have the savings to pay for expensive septic repairs.

Lastly, the costal environment is challenging for septic and often results in very costly systems. The topography of the land is made from water cutting through the hills. Nearly every property with septic has a small creek or ground water near the surface. The land can be steep and filled with trees or flat and flooded in the winter. Additionally, so many the houses were built 50+ years ago and the standards were not as they are today. All this is to say that a replacement septic in Coos and Curry County can often cost up to \$45,000.

When you add these factors together: low incomes, older population, and expensive septic systems, the result is that without Craft3 many people and families would not be able to repair their septic systems. Just this past month and I had a family of 4 whose septic failed. Even with both parents working modest jobs they would not have otherwise been able to pay for the new septic with a cost of \$41,000. Their drain field had failed and was surfacing, running into the creek. They wanted and needed to get it fixed and because of Craft3 they could do so.

Even with Craft3, every year I see people who cannot afford a permitted septic installed in a way that protects our drinking water and environment. They will find another way, and this typically means digging environmentally hazardous pits or installing a pipe the runs into the creek. I see this every year. It is so unfortunate. If it weren't for Craft3 there would be a lot more contamination of our environment and the drinking water and people left without any options. Please support Oregon's Clean Water Loan program through HB 2168. For those who have no other option it is critical so they can continue living in their homes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Flynn
President
Econo Rooter Services, Inc.**