



SENATOR FRED GIROD PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Passes Girod Bill to Support Wildfire Recovery and Infrastructure in North Santiam Canyon

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon Senate unanimously passed [SB 1198](#), a bill introduced by **Senator Fred Girod (R-Silverton)**, to help build a new publicly owned sewage treatment facility in the North Santiam Basin—a key step in rebuilding communities still recovering from the 2020 wildfires.

The bill allows construction of the new facility to begin between **April 15th, 2025 and June 6th, 2025** without a DEQ water quality permit, so long as the facility receives all necessary permits before it begins operation or discharges wastewater. All other required permits, such as for stormwater, still apply.

“This project is essential for communities like Mill City and Gates that were devastated by wildfire,” said **Senator Girod**. “Their current treatment system is outdated and failing. Without modern infrastructure, they can’t build new homes or grow. SB 1198 clears the way to start construction on time and protects a \$50 million investment the Legislature made to get this done.”

The new facility will improve water quality in the North Santiam River and protect public health in the region. It will also unlock new opportunities for housing development, economic growth, and long-term sustainability in an area still working to recover and rebuild.

SB 1198 now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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