



PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING

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February 7, 2020

Representative Helm, Chair
House Committee on Water
900 Court Street NE, HR D
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Leif, Vice-Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

Opposition to HB 4043

Albany strongly opposes and urges your NO vote on HB 4043.

HB 4043 would impose unnecessary restrictions on the design and construction of critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Selection of pipe material is a technical decision made by our design engineers and operations staff, based on a number of criteria including initial cost, soil corrosivity and contamination, operating pressure, structural integrity, and maintenance and life cycle costs. Legislation to impose a one-size fits all mandate on pipe material eliminates sound engineering judgement and could impact public health, increase long-term maintenance costs, or result in failure of critical infrastructure.

Albany joins with other Oregon municipalities and agencies, the Oregon Association of Clean Water, and League of Oregon Cities and urges you to vote no against HB 4043. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Bailey
Public Works Operations Director

SLB:ss

c: Staci Belcastro, P.E., City Engineer (via email)
Kristin Preston, P.E., Wastewater Superintendent (via email)
Jeff Blaine, P.E., Public Works Engineering and Community Development Director (via email)
Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities (via email trutten@orcities.org)
Representative Shelly Boshart Davis (via email Rep.ShellyBoshartDavis@oregonlegislature.gov)