



CITY OF REDMOND
Redmond City Council

411 SW 9th Street
Redmond, OR 97756

www.ci.redmond.or.us

February 10, 2020

Chair Ken Helm
Vice Chair Gary Leif
House Committee on Water
State Capitol, H-450
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representatives Helm and Leif:

The City of Redmond, Oregon opposes House Bill 4043 (HB 4043).

There is no need for this bill.

The Oregon Revised Statutes have numerous fair contracting requirements, and appeals processes for contractors who believe their products are not being adequately considered.

Different regions need different solutions. Pipes placed near or on top of volcanic formations in Central Oregon naturally require a set of standards that are distinct from pipes in loose or soft soils elsewhere. These decisions should be made by local engineers familiar with their area, rather than by a statewide mandate. Wildfires in our areas also need to be taken into consideration. "Cost" or "type" of pipe alone is not sufficient to protect our communities from these natural disasters.

Additionally, cities need to be able to plan for a cohesive, uniform system of water piping or sewer piping. This bill would likely result in a patchwork quilt of different types of materials in different sections of the city, adding dramatically to long term maintenance costs and confusion for workers expected to fix or maintain the system decades from now.

In Redmond, we are replacing outdated steel and plastic pipes with ductile iron. Iron provides longevity and structural integrity which protects ratepayers from expensive maintenance costs.

Using the proper materials is particularly important in Central Oregon, where every drop of water in our "water limited basin" is at a premium. Cities pay millions of dollars for mitigation credits to secure water rights. A single undetected leak can wipe out all conservation gains in a matter of days or weeks. Pressurized systems are essential if we are to be able to monitor and track water and potential water leaks, maintain safe supplies, and ensure that we are conserving this precious resource. This bill would blow a hole in our ability to ensure any of those three priorities.

HB 4043 is not a commonsense bill.

We urge you to oppose HB 4043.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Endicott". The signature is written in black ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

George Endicott
Mayor
Redmond, Oregon