



Eugene Water & Electric Board

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

EWEB OPPOSES HB 4043 – Preemption of Local Authority to Select Water Pipe

The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) opposes HB 4043, legislation that would interfere with EWEB's ability to select pipe and piping materials that are most appropriate for drinking water projects on our system.

HB 4043 would prohibit upfront specifications about water pipe materials at the project design level and would result in additional costs and administrative burden. EWEB and other drinking water providers have good reasons to make certain considerations in choosing the best materials for a water supply project, we are the ones who know best the considerations that need to be made in our distribution system and specific conditions around parts of that system. Some of these considerations include leak detection ability for public health protection and water conservation, seismic and wildfire resilience, soil conditions, and efficiencies and quality control that can be achieved through prudent standardization of equipment and training.

EWEB's ability to select the most appropriate pipe should supersede requirements to purchase lowest-cost materials that may not meet the unique needs of our water system.

Thank you for considering EWEB's input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jason Heuser
Public Policy and Government Affairs Director
Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)