

From: [Nathan Cherpeski](#)
To: [Exhibits HWTR](#)
Cc: [Rep Reschke](#)
Subject: Opposition to HB4043
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020 9:52:18 AM

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Water,

The City of Klamath Falls opposes HB4043. This seems an unnecessary intrusion into local control. We are very familiar with our soils and the many different applications for pipe materials. With our wastewater, water, and geothermal utilities, we regularly spend engineering time researching new materials and how they will react here. We are constantly looking for the most economical way to address our infrastructure needs.

For wastewater, our Engineering Standards already allow PVC on gravity sewers when the depth is less than 10 feet and the pipe diameter is between 8 and 12 inches. Sewer force-mains may use PVC when between 4 and 8 inches. This works for us in Klamath Falls, but it may not work in another part of the State.

Water lines, under 12 inches in diameter, are PVC. If larger than 12 inches in diameter, we require ductile iron. We established these requirements based on experience and close consultation with our design engineers. One of the concerns with PVC in pressure applications is the attempt to tap a mainline for a service. If the PVC pipe sees excessive deflection or bending and then an attempt to tap the main is made on the side of the pipe under tension, a rupture of the pipe could take place. We don't see that with ductile iron. Again, this is appropriate in Klamath Falls while other cities may have different needs.

Despite significant research and effort, we have not yet found a PVC application that will work in our geothermal utility. With water temps in excess of 180 degrees Fahrenheit, it simply isn't an option. If PVC technology advances to a point where it can carry those temperatures, we will certainly consider it without a need for the State to dictate that we do so.

We hope you will consider our concerns and vote against this bill. We do our best to make sure we are investing in infrastructure that will last and at the lowest possible price. We would oppose the State dictating to cities or forcing cities to use a pipe material we don't think is adequate for projects. Nor do we think it wise to force cities to spend time and resources considering pipe materials for applications we know will not be satisfactory based on our experience in our community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the citizens of our State.

Respectfully,

Nathan Cherpeski
City Manager

