



Working with community wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies across the state to protect Oregon's water quality since 1987

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February 11, 2020

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

Sent via email to: hwtr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Subject: HB 4043 Relating to materials for local water projects

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

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) strenuously opposes and urges your NO vote on HB 4043. ACWA is a not-for-profit organization of Oregon's wastewater treatment and stormwater management utilities, along with associated professional consulting firms, which are dedicated to protecting and enhancing Oregon's water quality. Our members provide wastewater and stormwater services to over 2.5 million Oregonians, serving over 65% of Oregon's homes and businesses.

We oppose HB 4043, because it would unduly and unnecessarily restrict local governments from designing and constructing critical public infrastructure in a manner that is durable, cost-effective, and reliable. Our member agencies have decades of experience with evaluating and determining appropriate pipe materials for various applications and locations. Public agencies that design and construct public infrastructure that includes pipes only specify or exclude pipe materials when there is a sound technical reason to do so.

The reasons for restricting piping materials vary and include: water conservation practices; pressurization concerns; the ability to easily locate and repair leaks; life-cycle costs; performance in seismic events; performance in high-intensity wild fire events and ensuring that repairs to water lines are compatible with an existing system and existing piping. We use such standards where necessary to protect public health and safety and create efficiencies for design, installation, and repair of pipes in our systems. While this bill allows for a process to get the right pipes in the ground in the end, the added process that would be required by this bill would increase costs and time with no benefit to the public.

Our members are continuously looking for new innovations in pipe materials and update their specifications and design standards to include these new materials for appropriate applications and locations. For example, the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services is currently updating its design standards and are adding specifications for several materials, including two new types of PVC. One of the considerations that Portland is looking at carefully is seismic resiliency. Our members have

Amy Pepper, Chair

Corissa Holmes, Vice Chair

Wendy Edde, Secretary/Treasurer

found that in some locations we need more rigid pipes to resist compression, while in others we need flexible pipes that stay intact when bent. Our members need to have the ability to prescribe the appropriate pipe materials in these, and other, types of situations.

Oregon ACWA urges you to vote against HB 4043. We appreciate your time and attention, and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a distinct "Smith" at the end.

Susie Smith
Executive Director