



Home of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

City of Sherwood
15527 SW Willamette St.
Sherwood, OR 97140
Tel 503-625-5722
Fax 503-625-0679
www.sherwoodoregon.gov

February 10, 2020

Mayor
Keith Mays

House Committee on Water
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Council President
Tim Rosener

Councilors
Renee Brouse
Sean Garland
Russell Griffin
Doug Scott
Kim Young

RE: Opposition to HB 4043

Co-Chair Ken Helm, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee,

City Manager
Joseph Gall, ICMA-CM

The City of Sherwood is in opposition to HB 4043 which limits local authority over water infrastructure and prohibits us from selecting the most appropriate piping materials for our drinking water.

The 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. We need to consider life-cycle costs, soil conditions, past performance of certain pipe materials, seismic and resilience, water conservation and water system continuity in determining the best products to use in our infrastructure.

As proposed, HB 4043 would significantly alter this process, shifting the burden to local government (and its communities and businesses) to justify their choices and increasing costs further for ratepayers.

Evaluation of pipe materials appropriate to each project is an important part of any water supply project. While every kind of pipe material has an appropriate application, not all materials are equally appropriate for the specific project. For this reason, it is critical that local government and design engineers are able to specify the kind of pipe most appropriate for each particular project in their community, from the beginning of a project. Keeping the selection of materials in the hands of design engineers and local agencies is necessary to have water pipes and treatment facilities that reliably do the job they are intended to do for the length of time planned by the design professionals.

In addition, materials are also selected based on the expertise of city staff who operate and maintain the system. Keeping an inventory of spare parts and materials on-hand for repairs is a crucial part of day-to-day water supply operations, which requires careful planning and budgeting.

Furthermore, this process is becoming more critical as agencies like Sherwood are preparing seismically resilient systems and operational plans. The consequences of adopting HB 4043 would create an additional burden to keep more, unnecessary system components and products on-hand due to the inconsistent and potentially inappropriate use of materials not compatible with already built infrastructure. There are pros and cons for each different type of pipe material. It is critical that not only engineers, but water system operators are also able to select the most appropriate type of pipeline material for each application.

We hope this bill will not move forward this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith M.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Mays
Mayor