



CITY OF TROUTDALE

Office of the Public Works Director

February 11, 2020

Re: HB 4043, LC 199-Testimony in Opposition

Dear Legislators,

I wish to add my comments on HB 4043. I, being a Registered Professional Civil Engineer oppose this piece of legislation at every level and wholeheartedly reject its purposes and goals. Having practiced my profession mostly on public water and wastewater systems in many western states for over 25 years, never have I seen an attempt to limit the owners of a public water or wastewater system their choice of pipe materials. Doing so is inconceivable in this day and age of vastly improving pipeline materials and that it waves in the face of the work that has been done throughout this country to provide more choices to water works owners and operators.

Every water system has unique characteristics due to the local geology, topography, and hydrology. The water system's size in terms of populations served, availability of resources, quality of its source water dictates many things including the type of pipe to be used. As Oregon's water system owners struggle with the cost of replacing old water and sewer pipes with new, the water works industry is diligently developing longer-lasting and lower-cost choices for the replacement of water supply lines, water distribution mains and customer service taps.

Providing more choices directly relates to the owner's and the consumer's overall costs of providing this critical service. Many water systems hold dear to the motto "Provide the highest quality of drinking water at the lowest possible price". America's water works industry continues to develop options that offer tremendous construction and pipeline replacement improvements, and all at a lower cost to the consumer. A true win-win situation. Limiting the owner's ability to choose for themselves the type of pipe to be used in their system is a huge step backwards and goes against the grain of the entire water works industry. Why impose a limit on Oregon's water systems while at the same time America's water works industry is hitting its stride with incredibly long-lasting and labor-saving materials and methods. Passing this self-serving legislation turns today's win-win environment into tomorrow's lose-lose tragedy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred J. Ostler".

Fred J. Ostler
Public Works Director

Cc: Raymond Young, City Manager