



Home of the Estabam River National Wildlife Refuge

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March 10, 2021

House Committee on Water
900 Court St. NE, H 490
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition of House Bill 2310 and -1 Amendments

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

Water providers across Oregon face a diverse set of challenges driven by aging infrastructure, climate change, new and evolving water quality regulations, and water rate affordability. Balancing these challenges while providing high quality drinking water requires an efficient procurement process. House Bill 2310 and its amendments, if passed, place undue burden on a utility and its elected officials to evaluate certain pipe materials, even if that material is not suited for a project.

Certain materials, such as plastic pipe, are suitable for many applications; however, plastic is not suitable for all applications and a variety of already known conditions. This includes critical seismic criteria for water supply design standards, potentially wildfire prone area, and certain geological conditions and soil types.

Requiring all pipe materials to be evaluated on every project places an undue burden on water providers and furthermore, may open the door to disputes in the procurement process. Water projects are best designed including specifications for the pipe material at the regional or local water utility level, where they have the knowledge of their water chemistry, community needs, and a variety of other criteria noted above.

We are concerned about the adoption of HB 2310 and its amendments, and the unintended consequences on the water utility in planning, designing, and putting water projects out to bid. The burden of unnecessarily re-evaluating pipe materials is a cost that will ultimately be borne by our water utility customers with little to no added value.

We urge the Committee to oppose HB 2310 and the -1 amendments. The City of Sherwood would be happy to assist the Committee further with our technical expertise as needed. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Craig Sheldon
Public Works Director