



February 10, 2020

RE: HB4043 – Water Pipe Preemption

Legislation To Whom It May Concern,

As the City Manger on behalf of the City of Umatilla, I am writing in strong opposition to the Water Pipe Preemption Legislation. We are very concerned about how this bill will limit local authority over municipal infrastructure. Our City of 7,500 residents has limited administrative capacity and limited funds available to maintain operable municipal systems. Although this legislation may reduce the material cost of pipe on a project; the administrative costs, operations and maintenance costs, and life cycle costs are expected to increase overall. It is of the utmost importance to maximize funds and responsibly use taxpayer dollars by maintaining a streamlined administrative process and implementing infrastructure improvements that best suit the systems' needs.

Maintaining flexibility to select the pipe material that will work best for each City's unique system supersedes the requirement to select the lowest cost material. By selecting pipe based on cost alone eliminates several decision factors, including at the very least, the life of the material, specific soil conditions, durability, water conservation, system continuity, and operation and maintenance considerations. This legislation is naive in assuming the lowest cost material is the best option overall and seems to completely ignore the myriad of other sometimes complex variables of any given project. Cost, though important to any project, is just one element of a project when considering the highest and best project solution.

We urge you to argue against this bill as it will ultimately harm municipalities and tax payers.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

City of Umatilla

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Stockdale", with a long, sweeping underline.

Dave Stockdale
City Manager