



Public Works Department

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Oregon House of Representatives

RE: Opposition to HB 4043

To members of the House Committee on Water,

The City of Molalla is opposed to HB 4043. The City of Molalla has provision within its municipal code and Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction that allow for submission, review, and approval of alternate materials. This provision allows for new technologies and products to be reviewed and approved based on nationally recognized standards, engineering review of local conditions, life cycle considerations, and cost related to installation and ongoing maintenance.

Reduction in material cost by substitution of alternatives rarely results in a cost savings to community rate payers. It often only results in an increase in profit for the supplier, contractor, or developer. Public Works Directors and City Engineers for local agencies already know what materials are in the best interest of their respective communities and ensure that the products used in water and other systems are safe and provide the best return for their communities.

It is my understanding that the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association has submitted a letter in opposition to HB 4043. Your committee may soon be receiving opposition letters or comments from Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, the League of Oregon Cities, and other professional organizations.

Legislation of engineering decisions is not in the best interest of local communities and I urge you not to approve this bill.

Respectfully,

Gerald Fisher, PE, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Cc: Molalla City Council
Dan Huff, City Manager
Representative Rick Lewis
Senator Fred Girod