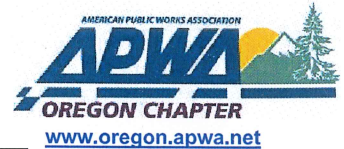


American Public Works Association

Your Comprehensive Public Works Resource



February 7, 2020

The Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) opposes HB 4043. APWA represents public works officials and professionals who share a strong commitment to providing and maintaining clean and reliable water and wastewater systems. The local and state agencies, public works professionals, and engineers we represent take this responsibility very seriously, as we have an obligation to protect public health, to use limited public resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to promote economic development.

HB 4043 would prohibit local governments from selecting the materials best for their water, wastewater, and stormwater systems when state funds were used in their project. The bill is presented as a way to ensure the public receives the best value, but the marketplace for pipes and related materials is already open and competitive, so such measures are not necessary. More importantly, technical decisions on materials for our public infrastructure should be made by the professionals tasked with designing, building, and maintaining these systems based on what is best for the needs of each system. These decisions should be based on the unique needs of each system, considering critical factors such as structural integrity, soil compatibility, maintenance, and life cycle costs. While certain material may appear to be a better option based on initial acquisition cost, it may be more expensive to install and may lead to increased maintenance and replacement costs in the future if that material is not suitable for the project conditions. This could result in higher life-cycle costs for the project, as well as environmental damage or permit violations.

Imposing new materials mandates not only interferes with sound engineering judgment, but also with the ability of communities to manage their systems as efficiently as possible. Communities should remain free to adopt system-wide best management practices and uniform specifications in the development and maintenance of their water systems to maximize efficiency and control costs, rather than being forced to comply with unnecessary regulations.

It is our understanding that efforts to pass similar legislation in 13 other states have been rejected for the reasons stated above, as have previous efforts to pass this legislation in Congress. On behalf of the public water and wastewater systems in Oregon; the professionals who design, construct, and manage them; and the public served by them, we respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4043.

Sincerely,

Mike Bisset, P.E.
APWA Oregon President

OREGON CHAPTER APWA 2020 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Bisset
City of McMinnville
231 NE Fifth Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
Phone: (503) 434-7312

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Tony Roos
Kittelson & Associates
851 SW 6th Ave
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 535-7444

SECRETARY

Ashley Cantlon
Otak, Inc.
808 SW 3rd Ave., Ste. 800
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 415-2306

TREASURER

John Lewis
City of Oregon City
625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone: (503) 496-1545

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Gordon Munro
Tetra Tech, Inc.
15350 SW Sequoia Pkwy, Ste. 220
Portland, OR 97224
Phone: (503) 598-2530

NATIONAL DELEGATE

Dan Boss
Retired
9270 SW Ibach Ct
Tualatin, OR 97062
Phone: (503) 989-6193

DIRECTORS

Tim Blackwood
Pali Consulting, Inc.
1419 Washington St, Ste. 101
Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone: (503) 502-0820

Kaaren Hofmann
City of Newberg
414 E. First Street
Newberg, OR 97132
Phone: (503) 537-1223

Russ Norton
Quincy Engineering, Inc.
200 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste E-530
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 763-9995

Doug Singer
City of Eugene
99 E. Broadway, Ste. 400
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: (541) 682-8460

Chase Welborn
3J Consulting
9600 SW Nimbus Ave, Ste. 100
Beaverton, OR 97008
Phone: (503) 946-9365 x215

Shannon Williams
Keller Associates, Inc.
245 Commercial St SE #210
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 364-2002

Oregon Chapter APWA
PO Box 6898
Bend, OR 97708-6898
Phone: (541) 994-3201
Fax: (503) 419-4369