



CITY OF SILVERTON PUBLIC WORKS

306 S. Water Street | Silverton, Oregon 97381

February 10, 2020

Representative Helm, Chair

House Committee on Water

900 Court Street NE, HR D

Salem OR 97301

(sent via email to: hwtr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

RE: City of Silverton Public Water System

Opposition to HB 4043

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

The City of Silverton strenuously opposes and urges your NO vote on HB 4043 as it would unduly and unnecessarily prevent local governments from designing and constructing critical public infrastructure in a manner that is durable, cost-effective, and reliable. Since its incorporation in 1854, Silverton has designed and constructed public infrastructure using pipe materials and appurtenances based on sound technological reasons and adopted standards. The uniformity of materials in the water system reduces the cost of stock piling an inventory of mixed materials, and reduces the time required to make emergency repairs and restore fire flow.

HB 4043 does not ensure that repairs to water lines would be compatible with the existing piping materials in the water system, and ignores the adopted standards for piping materials which are in place to create efficiencies for water system operation and designed to protect public health and safety.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions (503-991-6359; sssterner@silverton.or.us).

Sincerely,

Steve Starnier, Water Quality Supervisor

City of Silverton
Public Works Department
306 South Water Street
Silverton, OR 97381
(503) 873-5439
email@silverton.or.us



MEMO

DATE: 01|22|20
FROM: Petra Schuetz, Public Works Director
TO: Christy Wurster, City Manager
RE: Draft LC 199

I reviewed draft LC 199 and I do not believe this proposal would be aligned with any City interest. Public Works, namely City licensed professional engineers, fundamentally have both a responsibility to consult and enforce design and materials of our own infrastructure. This proposal eliminates basic City responsibility and authority for the structural integrity and compatibility of our systems.

The proposal removes the City's ability to evaluate and approve pipe material if *any* "licensed professional engineer[‘s]" professional judgement, opinion, recommendation or specification with respect to appropriate pipe or piping materials" (E)(3)(a). This could be any firm or individual who represented a private interest to be allowed to install *any product* regardless of quality, condition, attributes, or compatibility with the rest of the City systems.

Local government has an inherent responsibility to both consult with and enforce Code to protect the community and the safety of our water and wastewater systems. This proposal potentially eliminates that basic principal.

The proposal promotes a manufacturer or other private business interest/lobby to be the materials authority in the public right-of-way. It would be detrimental to the inherent rights and responsibilities Cities have for our community's infrastructure. I strongly recommend against support for this proposal.