



Public Works Department

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March 01, 2021

House Committee on Water

RE: Opposition to HB 2310 (formerly HB 4043 from 2020 session)

To members of the House Committee on Water,

The City of Molalla is opposed to HB 2310. 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.

Forcing local agencies to use materials that may not meet site specific or system operational conditions will set communities up for failure. 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 rate of return on their community's investments.

Molalla already uses PVC and other materials in our water mains due to corrosive soil conditions. Legislating a condition where this community may be forced to use materials not approved in their standards would result in system failures and is not in the public's interest. The power to make engineering decisions must remain at the local level and in the hands of engineering professionals that work for local communities.

Legislation of engineering decisions is not in the best interest of the public, local communities, or the State of Oregon and I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Fisher", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gerald Fisher, PE, Public Works Director/City Engineer

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