



**TO:** House Committee on Water, Oregon State Legislature

**DATE:** March 9, 2021

**RE:** HB 2310

The City of Springfield appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony expressing our strong opposition to HB 2310, which would prohibit local governments from adopting specifications for pipe materials during the design phase in water projects when state funds are used.

The City of Springfield and communities across Oregon have unique needs and circumstances that must be taken into account by the professional engineers who design water and wastewater systems. Pipe materials are selected based on considerations such as compatibility with existing systems, seismic resilience, soil compatibility, resistance to corrosion, and ease of maintenance. Technical decisions related to pipes and other materials should be made by licensed engineers and local communities, and should be based on the unique nature of individual systems.

We also have concerns about an amendment that would require local governments to post certain notices, studies, and justifications regarding pipe materials selection for local water projects. 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. The proposed amendment would create an administrative burden for utilities with no benefit to the public, thereby reducing, rather than increasing, efficiency. It could also lead to a lack of standardization for maintenance and repair, reducing efficiency and increasing costs. Both the original and amended versions of this legislation would likely lead to a significant increase in bid protests and litigation over pipe selection on public projects, causing project delay and squandering limited public resources.

HB 2310 bypasses local control, as well as the expertise of public works and engineering professionals to adopt system-wide best management practices and uniform specifications in the development, repair and maintenance of their water systems to maximize efficiency and control costs. The City of Springfield believes each community and utility should be able to choose the best materials to serve their customers and protect public investment in clean and safe water.

The City of Springfield respectfully urges your opposition to HB 2310. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Stouder', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Matt Stouder, PE  
Environmental Services Division Director  
City of Springfield