



**City of Molalla**

117 N Molalla Avenue

PO Box 248

Molalla, Oregon 97038

Phone: (503) 829-6855

Fax: (503) 829-3676

February 05, 2021

Representative Rick Lewis  
900 Court St. NE, H-484  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Fred Girod  
900 Court St. NE, S-323  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2344 Relating to labelling requirements for wipes

Dear Representative Lewis and Senator Girod:

The Molalla City Council strongly supports and urges you to vote yes on HB 2344. City of Molalla is the wastewater service provider to our community. We have several lift stations in our collection system and pumps and other mechanical equipment at our wastewater treatment plant subject to damage and failure due to advertising by manufacturers of wet wipes that they are safe to flush into the sewer system.

We urge you to support HB 2344 because sewer system clogs and damaged equipment throughout the U.S. have surged because of ever-increasing quantities of inappropriate materials, including wet wipes, being flushed in household and public toilets. While wastewater networks can convey solids such as human waste and small food scraps, the removal of wipes is uniquely challenging because they combine into “rag mats” and “ropes” and are impossible to untangle. Accumulation of these materials can cause sanitary sewer overflows, creating a public health hazard. Wastewater operators must use cutting tools and other heavy industrial tools to manually remove blockages and clogs from pumps, screens and other equipment. These efforts increase hazardous conditions for workers and add labor and equipment costs to municipalities.

HB 2344 would require manufacturers or retailers to place “Do Not Flush” labels and warning statements in visible locations on packages containing most types of wet wipes. This will effectively inform consumers of appropriate disposal of wet wipes after use. HB 2344 is consistent with the INDA/EDANA Code of Practice 2nd edition (published 2018), which was agreed upon by both product manufacturers and wastewater services sector trade organizations.

Wastewater agencies across the state have worked hard to educate the public about the problems created when disposable wipes are flushed. COVID-19 has increased the use and

disposal of wipes, which has made the situation worse. Local governments have invested significant resources to change the public's behaviors, encouraging the public to dispose of wipes in the trash. Billing inserts, social media posts, radio and television outreach are all elements of a major outreach effort undertaken over the past year. Unfortunately, these efforts have not been successful in noticeably reducing volumes of flushed wipes in the sewer system. Clear information on wipes packaging informing consumers to "Do Not Flush" is needed now.

The City Council for the City of Molalla urges you to support HB 2344. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mayor Scott Keyser

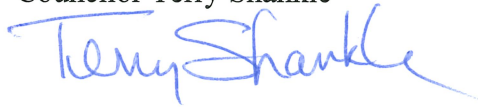


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