



Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Julie Fitzgerald Supporting HB 2344:

Proposed Legislation Requires Proper Labeling of Disposable Wipes that Should Not Be Flushed Down the Toilet and Often Clog Sewerage Pipes

Scheduled for public hearing on February 9, 2021, before the House Committee on Water

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of HB 2344 that requires that manufacturers or retailers of disposable wipes label their products to direct consumers to dispose of wipes in the trash rather than being flushed down the toilet.

The City of Wilsonville operates a sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant that includes 72 miles of gravity sewer lines, 384 manholes, and eight pumping lift-stations. The treatment facility is designed to handle 2.7 million gallons of sewage per day during dry weather and 3.8 million gallons per day during wet weather.

City Public Works crews frequently report that sewer-line blockages are caused by disposable wipes being flushed into the municipal sewage collection system. Blocked sewage lines pose a potential public health hazard through sewage overflows, is inconvenient for impacted residents and/or businesses, and is a time-consuming and costly expense to the City that is completely avoidable with proper advice to consumers.

HB 2344 requires manufacturers or retailers to place “Do Not Flush” labels and warning statements in visible locations on packages containing most types of wet wipes to effectively inform consumers about appropriate disposal 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor
City of Wilsonville