



To: Chair Helm; Vice-Chair Owens & Vice-Chair Reardon; Members of the House Committee on Water
From: Tracy Rutten Rainey, League of Oregon Cities
Date: February 9, 2021
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2344

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2344 with the -1 amendment.

This legislation would help address ongoing challenges associated with wipes products that are frequently flushed down toilets, resulting in costly impacts to wastewater infrastructure and ongoing frustrations for public works staff who must remove these clogs. In addition, the clogs associated with improper disposal of these products can result in sewage overflows – causing significant public health and environmental impacts.

We have worked closely with the Association of Clean Water Agencies on this bill and want to publicly recognize and commend the immense amount of work that they have put into elevating this issue, gathering data and bringing technical experts to the table to help draft this legislation.

Over the past few years, LOC has heard from a growing number of cities across the state that have experienced ongoing impacts associated with improper disposal of these products. Our members have dedicated public funds and other resources to engage in public education and outreach efforts, but, unfortunately, public confusion remains.

As a result of these ongoing challenges, the LOC Water & Wastewater Committee adopted a final legislative recommendation in May of 2020, directing the LOC to pursue and support legislation to implement a statewide labeling requirement for wipes products. HB 2344 reflects the policy committee’s legislative recommendation and we believe passage of this legislation will prove to be instrumental in providing needed support to communities that have been struggling for many years now to address these challenges at the local level.

We appreciate your consideration and urge the committee to support this legislation with the -1 amendment.