

RE: Water Revenue Bonds item 291

April 13, 2020

Dear Commissioner,

We must all face the new realities brought on by COVID-19 and global warming; as commissioners it is critical that you treat decision making and fiscal responsibility with the same sense of urgency and gravity as your citizens.

The Portland City Council is in possession of a much lower cost, much faster to implement, and much more environmentally friendly solution to the EPA LT2 mandate.

“What you see in front of you here, on this table, is 700 pages of drawings. And what you see behind you, on a stack that is knee-high, are the specifications for a UV plant...”

“This pile of paper is worth \$16 million, so you have a UV design on the shelf.”

Mike Stuhr, Director of the Portland Water Bureau, June 2017

We the citizens are quite aware of key facts that are either absent or spun to us repeatedly:

1. The proposed Water Revenue Bonds are in reality, DEBT. An astounding amount of it.
2. The WIFIA program would also support a UV treatment facility! It is **ABSOLUTELY NOT** tied to filtration.
3. Even with low interest, spending 10X more than necessary is wildly negligent. The UV solution, created specifically for the LT2 rule, bought and paid for by the citizens, was presented to cost \$105M vs the filtration plant which is likely to exceed \$1 BILLION.
4. Seattle, San Francisco, New York, and other cities were also advised by their professional water bureaus and consultants and they chose UV to protect their citizens, the public dollar, and the environment, now and for the future. They mention these facilities and attributes with pride – you could too!
5. If job creation is now a new urgent justification for this plant, then you must acknowledge that building the UV plant would also create many jobs and critically, in the immediate future, not years from now.
6. The planned filtration facility is among the worst choices environmentally. We care about our health and this planet. The construction and operation of the proposed filtration facility will mean:
 - Millions of pounds of new chemicals every year applied to our drinking water
 - Thousands of cubic yards of chemically exposed waste, year after year after year...
 - Millions of pounds of CO₂ injected into the atmosphere – contributing to global warming and air pollution
 - A further acceleration of skyrocketing water rates to residences and businesses (faster than healthcare!)
7. The \$51 million contracts awarded to Stantec for the filtration facility design contract would by itself cover approximately half the cost of the UV plant and that could be underway right now.

Stop those expenditures and re-direct those monies responsibly to meet the citizen’s needs while protecting the environment.

Sincerely,