



Chair Hodan Hassan
Minnesota House Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee

January 18, 2023

Dear Chair Hassan,

On behalf of our member organizations and Minnesotans throughout the state, the Minnesota Environmental Partnership would like to express our support for HF 24, the lead service line replacement bill.

Lead exposure is a severe, ongoing threat to public health. It disproportionately impacts Black, brown, and Indigenous Minnesotans, children, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. Those exposed to lead through inhalation or drinking water, especially in early life, may suffer physical and mental health challenges that can last a lifetime. There is no safe level of lead exposure.

Currently, more than 100,000 Minnesota homes have service lines made of lead delivering their drinking water. This is especially common in communities with older housing stock. While municipal water authorities can mitigate the problem in the short term, far too many families still suffer exposure. Unfortunately, for many such families, the cost of replacing their lead service line using their own funds is prohibitively expensive.

The Legislature has an opportunity to drastically reduce lead exposure around the state by replacing all of these lead drinking water service lines. Thanks to federal support, this undertaking will be more affordable for the state than ever before, but we must act now. The Legislature should build on and accelerate ongoing efforts to replace these lines at no cost to residents.

We thank Representative Sydney Jordan for bringing this bill forward. Generations of Minnesotans, present and future, will benefit from the passage of HF 24. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse".

Steve Morse
Executive Director