



April 21, 2023

Re: Lead Service Line Replacement HF 24

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

This session, the Legislature has heard numerous bills addressing lead in our drinking water. Legislators and the public are united in the desire to significantly reduce lead exposure to protect the health of Minnesota's youth and families.

The undersigned groups urge your support of HF 24. We have a once-in-a-generation financial and policy commitment from the Federal government to help states do this work fully and expeditiously, but **the Minnesota Legislature must do its part.** Federal investments will bring about \$42M/year for five years to Minnesota. With this bill, the funds to finally replace lead service lines in Minnesota will reach \$100 million a YEAR for at least the next FOUR years.

As you know, there is no safe level of exposure to this irreversible neurotoxin. Health impacts include attention difficulties, behavior changes, lowered IQ, and overall slowed development which can lead to lifelong inequities. The impacts of lead are highly inequitable. Lead exposure disproportionately impacts Black, Brown, and Indigenous Minnesotans, children, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. Lead poisoning has nothing to do with individual behaviors but is the result of policies. Water is a human right. **Everyone deserves safe drinking water.** That's why we ask you to support lead service line replacement funding this year.

This bill sets the goal and provides the roadmap to replace all lead service lines in public drinking water systems in Minnesota **within 10 years.** And it does this at **no cost to private property owners,** while targeting those households that are most at risk, ensuring that economic status does not affect future exposure to lead. Minnesota will not leave another generation of children to suffer from lead contamination.

In addition to supporting this bill for removing lead from drinking water supply systems, the MEP coalition also supports other bills that aim to keep lead out of the state's water, environment and humans. These bills include measures to transition away from lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We appreciate your support for HF 24.

Sincerely,

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

Steve Morse
Executive Director

(over)

Submitted on behalf of the following organizations:

A.C.E.S. (Austin Coalition for Environmental Sustainability)

Clean Water Action Minnesota

CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

Friends of the Mississippi River

Hastings Environmental Protectors

League of Women Voters Minnesota

League of Women Voters Upper Great Mississippi River Region*

Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Minnesota Well Owners Organization

Renewing the Countryside

Vote Climate

WaterLegacy

**denotes non-MEP member*