



March 30, 2022

TO: House Health Finance and Policy Committee

FROM: Abby Rogerson, Northeastern Minnesota Program Associate, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

RE: Residential Lead Service Line Replacement Grants

Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your service to the people of Minnesota and thank you for the opportunity to testify on the residential lead service line grant program. Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with almost 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people. MCEA supports this grant program to achieve 100% replacement of the privately owned portion of residential lead service lines in Minnesota by 2032. These grants would complement jurisdictions' efforts to replace public sections of lead service lines and ensure the public health benefits of investments in safe drinking water infrastructure are realized.

According to the CDC, children from low-income households are at the greatest risk of lead exposure, along with pregnant women and infants. Considering no safe level of lead exposure exists, each day a person is exposed to lead, they face the risk of lifelong health impacts. MCEA supports immediate action to mitigate and ultimately eliminate the risk of lead exposure through home drinking water in Minnesota through grants for residential lead service line replacements. We commend the program's targeted delivery to populations who face the most severe risks of lead exposure, including those living in lower-income census tracts, Opportunity Zones, and minority- and women-owned businesses.

We urge the committee to maximize the impact of federal infrastructure dollars for safe drinking water and healthy futures in Minnesota via the residential lead service line replacement grant program. We appreciate the work that has gone into this urgently important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Abby Rogerson, Northeastern Minnesota Program Associate, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy