

100%

100% Campaign
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March 2, 2022

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today to express our strong support for House File 2650 (Jordan) and House File 3003 (Acomb).

Minnesotans love our water. It's a part of our daily lives, for drinking, bathing, and cleaning. But it's also part of our identity. It's a source of pride and a resource we can all protect.

Unfortunately, too many Minnesotans are being exposed to lead in drinking water in their homes. A 2019 report from the Minnesota Department of Health estimates that **there are 100,000 lead service lines remaining in use in our state.** No amount of lead is safe for human consumption. Its presence in our drinking water is a serious health risk that ought to concern every Minnesotan.

House File 2650 (Jordan) and House File 3003 (Acomb) provide overdue solutions to this problem.

House File 3003 (Acomb) would do two things. First, it would provide the Minnesota Department of Health with support to conduct statewide testing for the presence of lead in drinking water obtained from private wells, day care facilities, and rental properties and to remediate lead contamination where it's found. Second, it would support our State Auditor's efforts to add information about the location of lead service lines to the office's infrastructure stress transparency tool. **These are both important interventions to better understand the problem and to target remediation efforts.**

House File 2650 (Jordan) would create a grant program for Minnesota cities to remove all residential lead drinking water service lines by 2032. **It would prioritize making these improvements in the places where they are most urgently needed,** census tracts in which 50 percent or more of households have household incomes at or below 60 percent of the state median household income. Further, it would encourage support for projects submitted by women and/or minority-owned businesses and those employers committed to paying at rates comparable to the area's prevailing wage.

While these improvements are urgently needed on their own, they are even more timely given the recent federal investment in lead pipe remediation in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Minnesota is expected to receive approximately \$43 million per year over the next five years for this purpose. This is a meaningful investment, but **it still falls short of the \$1.52 billion - \$4.12 billion we will need to spend over the next 20 years** to fix this problem permanently.

Please support House File 2650 and House File 3003.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Conry', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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