

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

March 29, 2022

Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today to express our support for Rep. Sydney Jordan's House Files 3898, 4115, and 4429.

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.** Its presence in our drinking water is a serious health risk that ought to concern every Minnesotan.

Rep. Jordan's House Files 3898, 4115, and 4429 provide overdue solutions to this problem.

House File 3898 would lower the definition of "Elevated blood lead level" from ten micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood to 3.5 micrograms. (In 2014, the Minnesota Commissioner of Health modified the definition to be equal to or greater than five micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood.) The change being proposed in HF 3898 is important, because no amount of lead is safe for human consumption. **This change would strengthen the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act, giving enforcing agencies another tool they need to protect Minnesotans.**

House File 4115 establishes a goal to remove all lead service lines in public drinking water systems by 2032. It then creates and provides \$5 million in funding for a grant program to assist municipalities in mapping lead service lines. Finally, it establishes and provides \$30 million for a lead service line replacement grant program. It provides guidance on grant priorities and workforce standards.

Finally, House File 4429 would create and fund a program to address this problem with community waters systems. The bill would inventory the lines, require a notice to customers, require a plan for replacement be submitted to the Commissioner of Health, and then provide grants to local governments to replace the pipes.

These are programs that meet the moment. Minnesota is expected to receive approximately \$43 million per year over the next five years from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Job Act for lead pipe replacement. While this is a meaningful investment, it still falls short of the \$1.52 billion - \$4.12 billion that the Minnesota Department of Health estimates that we will need to spend over the next 20 years to fix this problem permanently. **Rep. Jordan's bills move us closer to a comprehensive and conclusive solution.** They provide us with a statewide deadline for improving drinking water for all Minnesotans.

Please support House Files 3898, 4115, and 4429.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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