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Representative Tina Liebling
Health Finance & Policy Committee
477 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 2, 2023

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share The Nature Conservancy's support for HF24, which would fund a grant program to replace lead service lines and establish a state goal to remove all lead services lines by 2033.

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends so that nature and people can thrive. Clean drinking water is fundamental to people, communities and public health. While our organization works to address water quality and quantity issues around the state, those efforts must be matched by ensuring water at Minnesotans' taps is safe to drink. The health impacts of lead in drinking water are well-known and fall disproportionately on low-income children and communities.

While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) made funds available for inventories, mapping, and replacement of lead pipes, the need exceeds current federal funding. The State has an opportunity to match federal investments and act to address the problem quickly and at scale.

Thank you for considering HF24 and your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
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