



March 20, 2023

Re: HF 2930 – Department of Health Budget

Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities, on behalf of its 837 member cities, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2930. There are several sections of the bill that directly support cities in their efforts to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents. The League respectfully asks that the following provisions of the department's budget proposal be included as the committee develops the budget for the Department of Health.

Lead Service Lines: Federal law has established a very tight timeline for public water suppliers to inventory and map the location of lead service lines. Sec. 2, subd. 3(e) provides \$3 million/year in funding both as grants for cities to complete that work and for the department to manage an online portal that makes that information publicly available. Sec. 58 authorizes the department to create and maintain that database. Cities will need this level of funding assistance and data compilation to make sure they are able to get the required work done by October of 2024.

Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities: Sec. 32 reconstitutes an advisory group that worked successfully for many years to coordinate training and certification needs and requirements between public facility operators of drinking water and wastewater systems, the Department of Health, and the Pollution Control Agency. All parties found this to be a useful group and there is broad support for it to be reformed. The League has supported this in the past three budget cycles, but it has somehow fallen through the cracks each time, despite not having a cost or any opposition. Please include this provision in the department's omnibus budget.

Strengthening Public Drinking Water System Infrastructure: Sec. 2, subd. 3(g) and the corresponding policy language in Sec. 59 provide badly needed support as communities try to adapt their water supply systems to changing weather and climate conditions. Improving the ability of local systems to deal with power interruptions, increased cybersecurity requirements and threats, water reuse, floodplain changes, back-up well needs, and backflow prevention, among other issues, will require extensive technical and financial support. The League supports the creation of this program and the work the department is doing to help keep water supply systems safe, reliable, and cost effective.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig A. Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities