

March 21, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling and Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 2930 Department of Health Budget

The Minnesota Section American Water Works Association (MN AWWA) Water Utility Council provides guidance to MN AWWA in matters of legislative, regulatory, security and energy related issues. Members of the Water Utility Council represent water utilities from across the State, both metro and outstate, and include non-utility members consisting of engineers and scientists with expertise in the water industry.

The MN AWWA Water Utility Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2930, specifically asking that the following provisions be included in the budget for the Department of Health.

Lead Service Line Inventory: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule revision has established a very short timeline for public water suppliers to verify, inventory, and map the location of lead service lines. Water service line record information is often imperfect and water utilities will have to undertake rigorous efforts to accurately identify service locations and material type. Sec. 2, subd. 3(e) provides \$3,000,000 in grant funding to cities and water suppliers to complete this work. Sec. 58 further authorizes the MDH to create and maintain a database making this information readily available to the public in one location in a consistent format. Cities and water suppliers will need this level of assistance and funding to ensure compliance.

Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities: Sec. 32 reestablishes the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities between the Department of Health, Pollution Control Agency, and Water and Wastewater utilities. Reinstatement of this council would provide a platform for greater collaboration and communication between the State and water and wastewater system operators and stakeholders particularly in the areas of operator training and certification. Enhanced teamwork at this level will help water and wastewater systems navigate State and Federal guidelines as well as to serve to inform agencies of stakeholder concerns or issues ultimately resulting in higher quality water and wastewater services for the people of Minnesota.

Strengthening Public Drinking Water System Infrastructure: Sec 2. Subd. 3(g) and the corresponding policy language in Sec. 59 provide necessary support and funding for drinking water suppliers to improve system security and resiliency by addressing the immense challenges associated with threats such as climate change and cybersecurity. Funding, technical support, and other assistance to help build system redundancies like interconnects, back-up power supplies, and backflow prevention are needed by public water suppliers to

ensure safe, reliable drinking water for the all the public.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions or would like additional information or additional testimony, please contact me.

Sincerely,



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Chair

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Water Utility Council