



CITY OF AURORA

"Minnesota's Star of the North"

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Representative Lislegard
Minnesota House of Representatives
51 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 20, 2023

Senator Farnsworth
Minnesota Senate
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Lislegard and Senator Farnsworth:

The City of Aurora would like to express our support for HF 2930 and SF 2995. Passing of these two important bills are absolutely critical as the next step in providing safe, reliable drinking water for our state. As someone who is a licensed State of Minnesota Class A Water Treatment Specialist, a City Administrator for a small community, and a Board Member for the Minnesota Rural Water Association, I can tell you firsthand that this is a need and not a want.

Rural communities are the backbone of Minnesota, some with storied histories lasting well over a hundred years. With a rich tradition like this also comes infrastructure that is just as old. Lead solder, goosenecks, lines, pipes, and valves are the norm in our community and not the exception.

There is not a safe exposure level for this toxic chemical. Lead exposure has been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

Because of this, the City of Aurora and MRWA fully support a lead service line inventory and removal programs. The deadline for this inventory set forth by the EPA is nearing. Further compounding this problem is that areas where most lead is found are older, low-income areas that are more affordable. It is imperative then, that state grant dollars are available with these requirements to help make it affordable.

In conclusion, by implementing lead service line inventory and replacement programs, and by ensuring adequate grant dollars for funding, this program will not only be successful, but impactful. It will no doubt go a long ways towards helping communities and operators provide safe, healthy, clean drinking water for generations to come. Thank you for your support and please feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Lucas Heikkila
Administrator, City of Aurora
State Board Member, Minnesota Rural Water Association