



Working to protect the Mississippi River  
and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.

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RE: Support for HF 24 – lead service line replacement.

Chair Hassan and members of the committee,

On behalf of Friends of the Mississippi River, I am writing to express our support for HF 24.

Every Minnesotan deserves access to clean, safe drinking water. Unfortunately, though lead was banned for plumbing in 1986, existing lead pipes remain a threat in communities across the state.

Lead exposure causes severe and permanent health and developmental, especially in our young children. Public health experts agree that there is no safe level of lead, and the only way to permanently protect our water is to replace lead service lines and pipes connecting a home or building to the public water main.

Many communities simply need more resources to adequately identify and replace these dangerous pipes. The EPA estimates that lead service line replacement costs can range from \$1,200 to \$12,300 per line<sup>1</sup>, putting lead service line replacement out of reach for many households.

As amended, HF24 sets a statewide lead service line replacement goal and provides much-needed funding to make that possible.

This legislation, paired with unprecedented federal funding support, represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect public health by removing all of Minnesota's lead service lines.

We greatly appreciate Rep. Jordan's strong leadership on this issue and urge you to support HF 24 this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Russell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Russell  
Water Program Director  
Friends of the Mississippi River

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. October 2019. [Strategies to Achieve Full Lead Service Line Replacement](#). EPA 810-R-19-003