



**CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA**

February 15, 2023

To Chair Lee and Chair Pappas and members of the Capital Investment Committees,

Thank you for recognizing the diverse and urgent needs requiring state investment throughout Minnesota. At Conservation Minnesota, we work to protect the people and places Minnesotans love – and this proposal makes many important investments to do just that. We commend the investments for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure our cherished Great Outdoors are thriving and accessible to all Minnesotans. We thank the Chairs for recognizing the needs of metro parks and the dedicated investments through the Metropolitan Council are appreciated. We commend the investment in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which will help private landowners make permanent conservation investments enhancing private lands for wildlife and water quality.

And we commend the Chairs for making significant water infrastructure investments through the Public Facilities Authority. Clean water for swimming, fishing and drinking is directly a result of the investments made at PFA to help communities manage wastewater and drinking water in the land of 10,000 lakes.

However, we would like to point out one missing investment in the proposal – a significant investment in helping map and remove lead service lines. The Minnesota Department of Health estimates there are 100,000 lead service lines delivering drinking water to Minnesotans. The Department acknowledges it could cost \$1 billion to map and remove all lead service lines throughout the state. The \$10 million proposed in general obligation bonds in this bill is helpful, but it is not nearly enough. Furthermore, the unique ownership split of lead service lines – some parts are privately owned and some parts are publicly owned – means that general obligation bonds will not be able to fund all replacement costs.

Minnesota needs a major state investment to help municipalities map and replace all lead service lines in the next 10 years. House File 24 (Jordan) and Senate File 30 (McEwen) put Minnesota on a path to map and replace all lead service lines throughout the state by 2033 – all at no direct cost to residents and businesses who need their lead service lines replaced.

In conclusion, thank you for the important investments in this bill, and we urge you to consider HF24/SF30 in your respective committees this session to put Minnesota on a path to fully fund the mapping and replacement of lead service lines across the state by 2033.

Thank you for considering this request.

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