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Representative Fue Lee  
Capital Investment Committee  
485 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Capital Investment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share The Nature Conservancy's support for HF24, which would fund a grant program to replace lead service lines and establish a state goal to remove all lead services lines by 2033.

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends so that nature and people can thrive. Clean drinking water is fundamental to people, communities, and public health. While our organization works to address water quality and quantity issues around the state, those efforts must be matched by ensuring water at Minnesotans' taps is safe to drink. The health impacts of lead in drinking water are well-known and fall disproportionately on low-income children and communities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) made funds available for inventories, mapping, and replacement of lead pipes, but the need exceeds current federal funding. While we thank the committee for including lead service line replacement in the HF669 capital investment proposal, we also encourage the committee to consider additional investments that will address the scale of need above what is currently proposed in HF669. The State has an opportunity to match federal investments and act to address the problem quickly and at scale.

Thank you for considering HF24 and your work on behalf of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla  
Government Relations Director  
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota

Molly Jansen  
Government Relations Specialist  
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota