



March 20, 2023

Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

Minnesota Small Cities advocated for the over 700 cities in Minnesota that have populations under 5,000. We appreciate the chance to comment on 2930. Specifically, we support the provisions below that we feel will have a direct impact on the communities we serve.

Lead Service Lines: Sec. 2, subd. 3(e) provides \$3 million/year in funding both as grants for cities to complete that work and for the department to manage an online portal that makes information publicly available. Sec. 58 authorizes the department to create and maintain that database. Small Cities especially will need this level of funding assistance and data compilation to make sure they are able to meet federal requirements.

Strengthening Public Drinking Water System Infrastructure: Sec. 2, subd. 3(g) and the corresponding policy language in Sec. 59 provide needed support as communities try to adapt their water supply systems to a changing climate. Improving the ability of local systems to deal with power interruptions, increased cybersecurity requirements and threats, water reuse, floodplain changes, back- up well needs, and backflow prevention, among other issues, will require extensive technical and financial support, especially for growing communities.

Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities: Sec. 32 Establishes an advisory group that worked successfully for many years to coordinate training and certification needs of public facility operators of drinking water and wastewater systems, the Department of Health, and the Pollution Control Agency. Mn Small Cities saw great benefit in this program and share the support of its return with other municipal organizations. Please include this provision in the department's omnibus budget, it has failed in past years despite no opposition.

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Minnesota Small Cities
Executive Director