

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray:

We write to urge you to help ensure that all Americans have access to safe drinking water. Specifically, we ask you to oppose repurposing \$250 million of existing funding for lead service line replacement for fiscal year 2026. The Senate Interior Appropriations bill (Section 453 of S.2431) would repurpose \$250 million that was appropriated for FY2026 by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for lead service line replacement. These funds are crucial to advancing the nationwide effort to reduce the nationwide threat of lead contaminated drinking water and should be retained.

To urgently achieve the decade-long task of removing lead service lines once and for all, it is crucial that this funding be protected. Too often, our local communities do not have the resources and capacity to address this health risk without a more aggressive funding approach to this growing crisis.

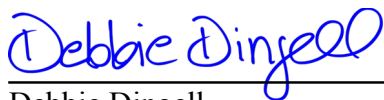
EPA data show there are millions of lead pipes still supplying drinking water in districts throughout all 50 states and territories. The wide distribution of lead service lines threatens the health and safety of our constituents, and especially our children who are particularly vulnerable to lead.

While it has been estimated that removing all the nation's lead service lines will require at least \$45 billion, the benefits of removing these lead pipes and reducing the health impacts of lead in tap water far outweigh these costs. EPA found that the benefits of removing lead pipes and reducing lead levels in tap water exceed the costs by more than tenfold. These benefits include protecting about a million infants from low birthweight-related complications, preventing thousands of children from suffering from ADHD, and avoiding 1,500 fatal heart attacks.

Reducing lead levels in tap water also will reduce the damage to Americans' kidneys and immune, reproductive, and nervous systems. A more comprehensive assessment by academic experts found that the total benefits of reducing lead levels in tap water are at least 35 times higher than the costs. Other independent analyses have confirmed that simply removing lead service lines will yield benefits of at least 14 times the costs over coming decades.

Ensuring that the full existing IJA funding for removing lead service lines is retained will help keep us on track with the decades-long objective of ensuring that tens of millions of Americans' tap water in every state in the union is protected. We therefore urge you to ensure that the IJA funding for lead service line replacement is retained in full. Too many communities still lack access to safe drinking water and this increase in funding is needed to help ensure everyone has clean water.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress




Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



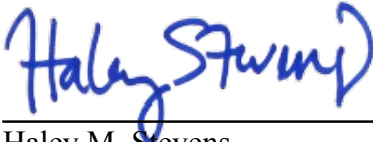
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



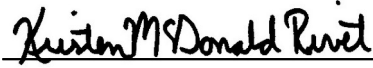
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress




Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



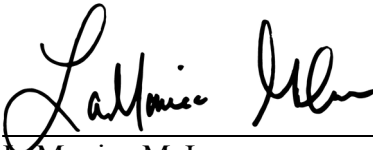
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



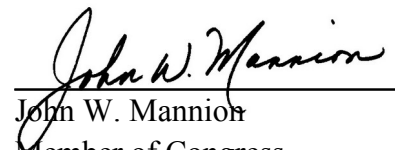
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



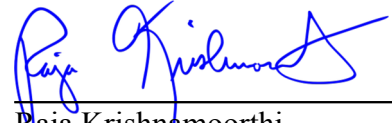
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Sara Jacobs
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Julia Brownley
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Derek T. Tran
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Pramila Jayapal
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Frederica S. Wilson
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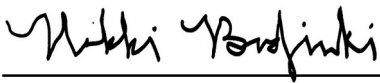
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



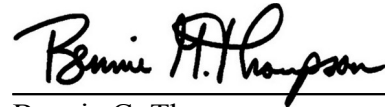
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



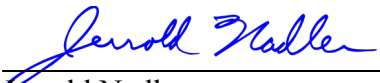
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



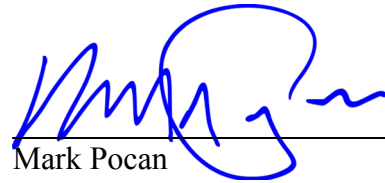
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



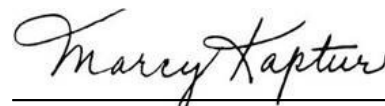
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



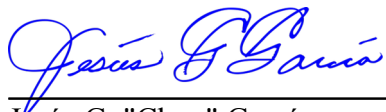
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress