

June 20, 2025

Senator Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Patty Murray
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations
Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Chair Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the state and local governments, water utilities, businesses, employees, and community members we represent across the United States, we urge you to fully fund federal infrastructure programs that address lead in drinking water in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) appropriations legislation. We are deeply grateful for the investments Congress has made to date in our public health, local economies, and environmental protection.

The investments made through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—particularly via the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act (DWWIA)—were critical in the national effort to remove lead service lines. However, the scale of the challenge requires significantly more federal investment to meet the EPA’s 10-year goal of replacing all lead pipes nationwide.

We respectfully request full funding for the following programs at their authorized levels:

- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF):** \$3.25 billion
- **Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program:** \$100 million
- **School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program:** \$50 million

Together, these programs provide grant and low-interest loan options to communities across the country to accelerate lead pipe replacement.

Replacing lead service lines is a one-time infrastructure investment with enormous long-term returns. The EPA estimates health-related cost savings of nearly \$800 billion over the next 35 years, in addition to substantial public health and economic benefits. Reducing lead exposure in drinking water will help prevent developmental delays, learning challenges, and low birthweight in children, avoid an estimated 1,500 fatal heart attacks, and reduce harm to the kidneys, immune, reproductive, and nervous systems.

Despite the 1986 ban on lead pipes, millions remain in use across the country. Replacing these pipes is expected to cost between \$45 billion and \$90 billion over the next decade. Without

continued robust federal investment, many communities—particularly small, rural, and historically underserved ones—will struggle to meet this urgent challenge.

We strongly urge you to provide full FY26 funding for the DWSRF and the lead-related programs authorized in the DWWIA. These investments will create jobs, reduce health costs, and ensure every child and family has access to safe drinking water—an essential promise we must keep.

Thank you for your continued leadership. We look forward to working with you to advance these critical public health and infrastructure priorities in the FY26 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Protect Kids from Lead Coalition

American Public Health Association

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Clean Water Action

Clean Water Construction Coalition

Environmental Defense Fund

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

National Association of County & City Health Officials

National Environmental Health Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

Unleaded Kids

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Young, Gifted & Green

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
Members of the House Committee on Appropriations