



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

March 21, 2023

Dear Representative Jordan,

We are writing to extend our support for H.F. 24, which would establish a grant program to replace lead drinking water service lines and map lead service lines.

This bill is critical to preserve the health and safety of our citizens, and would also contribute to cleaner water for the animals living in our lakes and rivers. Ingesting lead present in water is very dangerous for any organism, as the effects of lead in the bloodstream potentially include brain and organ damage, changing blood formation, and even death. Because of the damage that lead can cause, it is essential that we invest in mechanisms to remove lead from water systems. There are estimated to be 100,000 lead service lines remaining in Minnesota, with our state ranked at 10th in the nation for the most lead pipes. In order to continue the progress towards removing these pipes, it is essential that we provide monetary support for the replacement and removal of these lead pipes, as delegated in H.F. 24.

As environmental advocates, we often observe the profound impact a lack of environmental resources has on the community. H.F. 24 acknowledges that areas in Minnesota are unable to receive clean water; thus, establishing a grant program to fund greater access to this resource is essential. With people in our own state struggling to easily drink clean water, it is imperative that legislators take action now to increase the attention and funding given towards solving this issue. Additionally, an increased investment in mapping lead service lines would prioritize safety of our citizens and demonstrates greater awareness towards the consequences of lead service lines. H.F. 24 showcases the commitment of environmental advocates and legislators to improve our community's environment.

We, the Minnesota Youth Council's Environmental Justice Committee, want Minnesota to be a place where everyone has a right to clean drinking water that is free of lead. For these reasons, H.F. 24 has our emphatic support.

Sincerely,  
The Minnesota Youth Council

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