




Public Utilities Commission

Room 274 • 411 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

 218-730-5320

March 16th, 2023

Chair Melissa Wicklund
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wicklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Duluth Public Utilities Commission, I am writing to voice our support for legislative proposals S.F. 30 which will establish a grant program to fund replacement of lead water services.

The City of Duluth is currently identifying and creating a complete inventory of lead water services. The current number of addresses confirmed to have a lead water service is 6,300. This number continues to grow as we carry on our outreach and identification of private water service materials. In 2022, the City bid out and began construction of a pilot project replacing lead water services. The cost to replace each service was approximately \$16,000 per address in that project. Considering this price and the current estimate of 6,300 total services, the City will need \$101,000,000 to completely eliminate the known lead services. This estimated total cost will grow as we continue to identify lead services. The proposed legislation sets a goal for the entire state to replace all lead water services in a 10-year timeframe. This will require over \$10,000,000 per year for just the City of Duluth. A project of this magnitude is beyond the funding capability of the City, and the Duluth Public Utilities Commission is in support of SF 30 and HF 24 and the proposed amendment to establish funding for this necessary effort.

Thank you for your support of this critical legislation. Please reach out to the City if we can help in any way with the approval of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ryan
President
Duluth Public Utilities Commission