



Working to protect the Mississippi River
and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.

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March 15, 2023

RE: Support for SF 30 – lead service line replacement.

Chair Champion and members of the committee,

On behalf of Friends of the Mississippi River, I am writing to express our support for [SF 30](#).

Every Minnesotan deserves access to clean, safe drinking water. Unfortunately, though lead was banned for plumbing in 1986, existing lead pipes remain a threat in communities across the state.

Lead exposure causes severe and permanent health and developmental, especially in our young children. Public health experts agree that there is no safe level of lead, and the only way to permanently protect our drinking water is to replace lead service lines and pipes connecting a home or building to the public water main.

Many communities simply need more resources to adequately identify and replace these dangerous pipes. The EPA estimates that lead service line replacement costs can range from \$1,200 to \$12,300 per line¹, putting lead service line replacement out of reach for many households.

As amended, SF 30 sets a statewide lead service line replacement goal and provides much-needed funding to make that possible.

This legislation, paired with unprecedented federal funding support, represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect public health by removing all of Minnesota's lead service lines.

We greatly appreciate Senator McEwen's strong leadership on this issue and urge you to support SF 30 this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Russell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Russell
Water Program Director
Friends of the Mississippi River

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October 2019. [Strategies to Achieve Full Lead Service Line Replacement](#). EPA 810-R-19-003