



Excellence in Training and Technical Assistance

March 20, 2023

Representative Liebling
Minnesota House of Representatives
175 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Wiklund
Minnesota Senate
3109 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Liebling and Senator Wiklund:

Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) would like to express our support for HF 2930 and SF 2995.

Investing in community and public drinking water systems benefits all Minnesotans. Specifically, MRWA fully supports these bills which help communities meet requirements for a lead service line inventory and replacements that are part of U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision. Lead is a toxic metal with no safe level of exposure. The deadline set by EPA for communities to inventory their lead service lines is coming up soon and communities desperately need assistance to achieve this goal due to lack of funding and staffing shortages. Complete lead service line inventories ensure funding can be targeted to lower income residents who do not have a means to fund a service line replacement on their own.

MRWA supports grant funding for emergency power and backup wells for community water systems. Many smaller and rural communities do not have a backup well or a generator to supply power to their water source in the event of failure. This critical grant funding can help address this issue and enable communities to provide safe drinking water in the event of an emergency, be it climate-related, a cyberattack, or other disruptive factors.

Additionally, funding for a reinstated Drinking Water and Wastewater Advisory Council will ensure that laws and rules pertaining to operators of water supply and wastewater treatment systems are properly written and enforced. Minnesotans will have the reassurance that rules and actions pertaining to their public water supply and wastewater systems have been addressing through a council of professionals, academia, and community leaders ensuring they have a voice in the process.

Investing in Minnesota infrastructure strengthens our community's ability to provide safe, clean drinking water. Minnesotans need to be confident that public water systems are able to meet their needs ensuring that all public water systems, regardless of size, are able to provide uninterrupted delivery of safe drinking water. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Lori Blair

Lori Blair
Minnesota Rural Water Association
Executive Director