

A Resolution Submitted by the City of Milwaukee, WI



MAINTAINING PROGRESS ON LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT THROUGH THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING

May 2025

WHEREAS there are an estimated 9.2 million lead service lines remaining in the United States, per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and a substantial portion of these are concentrated in communities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region.

AND WHEREAS lead is a neurotoxin that has been scientifically linked to developmental delays, cardiovascular diseases and other serious health problems.

AND WHEREAS there is no safe level of exposure to lead.

AND WHEREAS there is a risk of lead exposure via drinking water in communities with lead service lines.

AND WHEREAS there are known societal and economic costs to lead exposure, with studies showing elevated risk levels in marginalized communities and substantial financial costs for our health system.

AND WHEREAS on October 30, 2024, EPA published in the Federal Register the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), a rule requiring most U.S. water systems to complete full lead service line replacement by October 2037.

AND WHEREAS the LCRI also improves lead testing requirements, reduces the lead action level to 10 parts per billion and makes in-home water filters available to residents when the action level is repeatedly exceeded, among other regulatory changes.

AND WHEREAS on December 13, 2024, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) filed a petition for judicial review of the LCRI in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, citing concerns about lead service line replacement on private property, affordability for low-income residents and the feasibility of the 10-year replacement timeline.

AND WHEREAS on January 30, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to hold the petition for judicial review in abeyance for 60 days to give the agency time to determine whether the LCRI aligned with administration priorities.

AND WHEREAS multiple joint resolutions have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would repeal the LCRI under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), preventing EPA from implementing a similar rule in the future and reverting to the flawed Lead and Copper Rule Revisions that predated the LCRI.

AND WHEREAS the mission of the Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Water Access is to promote equitable access to clean, safe and affordable water for all residents of our region.

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative's Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership seeks to expedite lead service line replacement in Great Lakes big cities with the heaviest lead burdens.

AND WHEREAS Cities Initiative members have approved multiple resolutions in recent years regarding the vital importance of expeditiously replacing lead service lines.

AND WHEREAS many Cities Initiative members are striving to replace their lead service lines as efficiently and equitably as possible, but rely heavily on federal and state funding to ensure the financial burden does not fall on individual households and water systems.

AND WHEREAS the City of Milwaukee, WI has proudly committed to replacing 100 percent of its lead service lines within the LCRI's 10-year replacement timeline, contingent on the ongoing availability of funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative strongly supports the LCRI in its current form, as this historic rule supports public health and is consistent with our members' commitment to promoting equitable access to clean, safe and affordable water for all residents of our region.
- The Cities Initiative opposes all efforts to repeal or weaken the LCRI, whether through litigation, the CRA or other agency action.

- The Cities Initiative has serious concerns regarding the ongoing availability of federal funding for lead service line replacement, recognizing that lead service lines are heavily concentrated in our region and an AWWA study found replacing lead service lines nationwide could cost approximately \$100 billion.
- The Cities Initiative urges EPA to request and the U.S. Congress to provide additional federal funding for lead service line replacement to support the effective implementation of the LCRI's 10-year replacement timeline.
- The Cities Initiative encourages Great Lakes governors and state legislatures to provide robust state funding to complement any federal funding and support the effective implementation of the LCRI's 10-year replacement timeline.
- The Cities Initiative pledges to work collaboratively with U.S. federal and state governments, our members and regional stakeholders to unlock the additional funding necessary to support the effective implementation of the LCRI's 10-year replacement timeline.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin; EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Jessica Kramer; the governors of the eight Great Lakes states; and the Great Lakes Task Force in the U.S. Congress.