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June 11, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member, Committee on
Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on
Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, Chairman Guthrie,
Ranking Member Pallone, Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and
Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to call for robust federal investments in water-infrastructure modernization and lead service line replacement as you advance critical reauthorization legislation in the remaining months of the 119th Congress and the Appropriations Act for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027.

We are proud to represent cities with deep connections to the world’s largest freshwater ecosystem, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. These unparalleled freshwater resources are why millions of people want to live, work, and play in our region, and why businesses choose to base their operations here. While water is our biggest asset, outdated water infrastructure – including more than 600,000 lead service lines remaining in our five cities alone – continues to jeopardize public health and safety and limit our economic potential. This is unacceptable.

To help address our water-infrastructure challenges, we formed the Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership, a mayor-led forum to foster regional collaboration to expedite lead service line replacement in Great Lakes big cities, which are among the most lead burdened in the United States. The recent influx of federal dollars has enabled a dramatic expansion of our lead service line replacement programs, reducing the risk of lead exposure via drinking water while providing family-supporting jobs for our residents. However, we are concerned that this momentum could stall without ongoing and reliable federal support.

We therefore respectfully urge the U.S. Congress to:

- **Reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) at a \$3.25 billion annual funding level.** According to the Value of Water Campaign, every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure generates \$2.5 million in economic output and \$1.4 million in GDP. Reauthorizing the DWSRF at a \$3.25 billion annual funding level and preventing a devastating lapse in program authorization is necessary to promote public health and safety and ensure continued economic growth without raising rates on everyday Americans.
- **Appropriate \$3.25 billion for the DWSRF in FY27.** The Value of Water Campaign has found a \$91 billion annual gap in water-infrastructure investment nationwide, a situation exacerbated by the perpetual underinvestment in the DWSRF each appropriations cycle. Increasing base appropriations to \$3.25 billion in FY27 and future appropriations cycles is essential if we are to close the investment gap and plan major, long-term infrastructure upgrades.
- **Provide additional supplemental appropriations for lead service line replacement.** The Value of Water Campaign estimates as much as \$64 billion may be needed over the next 20 years to replace lead service lines across the United States. Additional supplemental appropriations are needed now to continue accelerating lead service line replacement, which we must do to make progress towards compliance with the 10-year replacement timeline for most communities mandated by EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements.

We can personally attest to the tremendous value of federal investment in water infrastructure via the DWSRF and similar programs. When we invest in water, we invest in the health and safety of the American people and American economic competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with you to maintain federal support for water-infrastructure modernization and lead service line replacement in the Great Lakes and nationwide.

Sincerely,



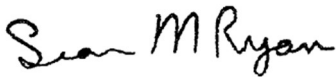
Cavalier Johnson
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U.S. Chair, Cities Initiative



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Mayor, Chicago, IL



Mary Sheffield
Mayor, Detroit, MI



Sean Ryan
Mayor, Buffalo, NY



Malik Evans
Mayor, Rochester, NY