

September 25, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Young:

We appreciate the Biden-Harris Administration's bold leadership and substantial efforts to remove nearly all lead service lines from across our nation within 10 years. The commitment to ensure safe, lead-free drinking water in every community has been evident through both federal investments and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) proposed rule that was published in December 2023 and submitted for finalization to the White House Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in August 2024. This proposal represents another critical step forward that will protect public health, create jobs and ensure a better future for our children. We write to underscore the importance of finalizing the LCRI before October 16, 2024, to avoid a default implementation of the previous administration's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

As you know, if the rule is not finalized by October 16, water systems and states will be required to start complying immediately with the deeply problematic LCRR. EPA concluded that temporary implementation of the LCRR rule from the prior administration will create bureaucratic complexity and confusion for regulated entities, waste scarce resources, result in widespread non-compliance and risk delaying or failing to realize the full benefits of the LCRI. *See* 88 Fed. Reg. at 84,903, 84,967-69. In addition to the unnecessary potential confusion and complexity, the prior administration's LCRR would put public health at risk by implementing inadequate policies that do not meaningfully address the lead contamination problems in communities across the country.

Finalizing the LCRI in a timely way also works to protect our most vulnerable. Lead service lines are disproportionately located in low-income communities and communities of color. This increased risk of lead-contaminated drinking water factors into disadvantaged communities' greater cumulative risk of lead exposure. Early lead exposure can lead to lasting behavioral and intellectual disabilities and research shows that children who were exposed to lead are more likely to have lower socioeconomic statuses than their parents in adulthood. But adults are not exempt from lead's impacts; exposure causes cardiovascular and renal problems as well as an increase in all-cause mortality. There is no safe level of lead exposure.

The commitment of the Biden-Harris Administration and its EPA extends beyond the LCRI, but a timely final LCRI is necessary to stop the ongoing environmental health crises. The \$15 billion in dedicated funding for lead pipe replacement and additional \$11.7 billion in grants, loans and principal forgiveness made possible through Congress's passage of Senator Duckworth's *Drinking Water and Wastewater*

Infrastructure Act, included in the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* and other sources, need the proposed LCRI to be finalized to ensure safe and expedient implementation.

A timely final LCRI is necessary to immediately and urgently address lead contamination in communities across the country and remove the estimated 9 million service lines across the nation that contain lead. The final rule will ensure that safe and lead-free drinking water is available in all communities, and we look forward to continue working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



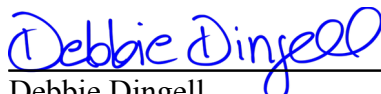
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Rashida Tlaib
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Richard J. Durbin
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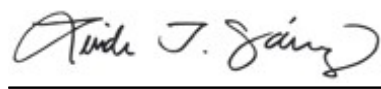
Jerrold Nadler
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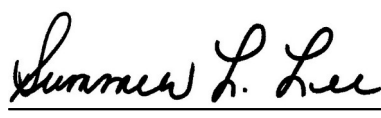
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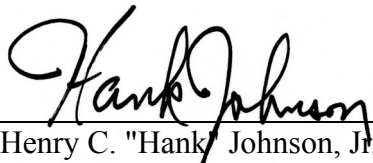
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Robert Garcia
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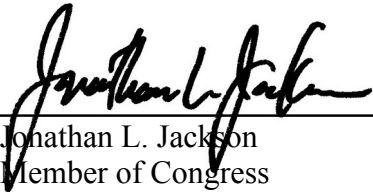
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Shri Thanedar
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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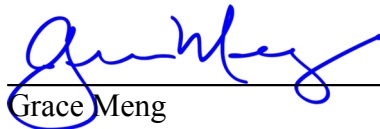
Patrick Ryan
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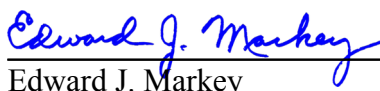
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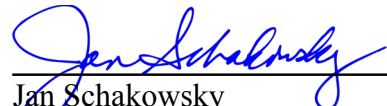
J. H. Tokuda
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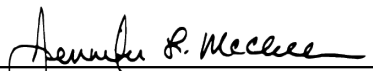
Ritchie Torres
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Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



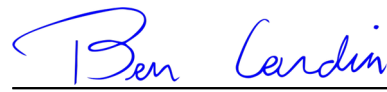
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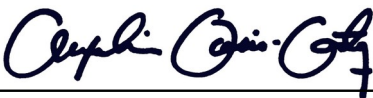
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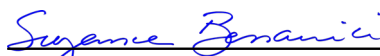
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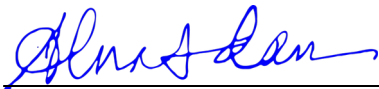
Joe Courtney
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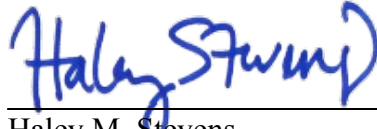
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



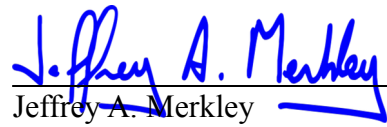
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



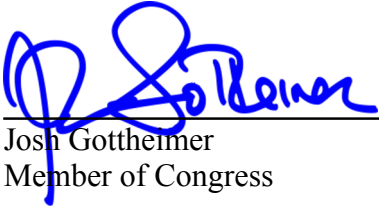
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Haley M. Stevens
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Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Josh Gottheimer
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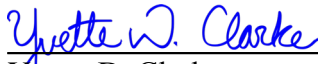
Bill Foster
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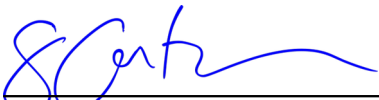
Ro Khanna
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Katie Porter
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Sean Casten
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Delia C. Ramirez
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Jack Reed
United States Senator



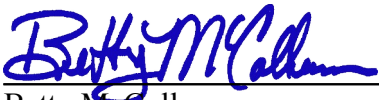
Daniel T. Kildee
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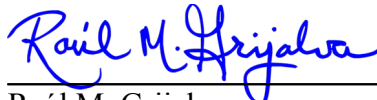
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



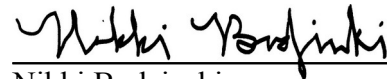
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



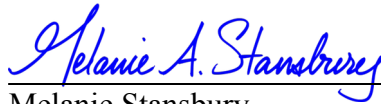
Raúl M. Grijalva
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Nikki Budzinski
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



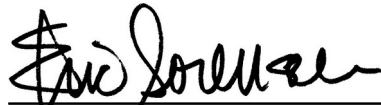
Melanie Stansbury
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Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



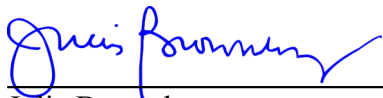
James P. McGovern
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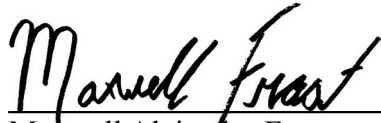
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



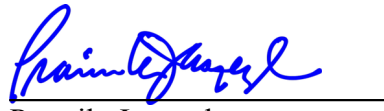
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Julia Brownley
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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Pramila Jayapal
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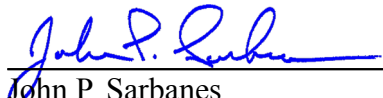
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



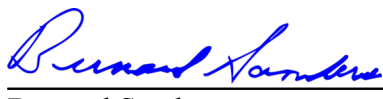
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Bernard Sanders
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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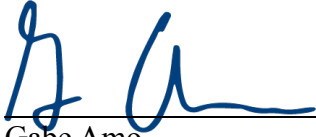
Gerald E. Connolly
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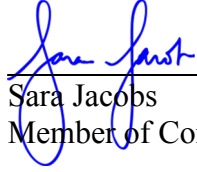
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