

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

August 19, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expeditiously complete the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (Needs Survey) and incorporate the results in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) allocations.

Last November, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,¹ which provided over \$30 billion for drinking water infrastructure. This historic funding will address pressing drinking water issues that are in desperate need of investment—including aging infrastructure, emerging contaminants, and lead service lines—and help ensure every community has access to safe, clean drinking water.

We appreciate the Biden Administration's commitment to delivering these resources, especially to those communities most in need, and commend your work to ensure 100 percent of lead service lines (LSL) are removed in the next 10 years.² Lead-contaminated drinking water continues to endanger the health of families and children, which is why we secured \$15 billion in funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help accelerate LSL removal across the nation.

To that end, we urge you to promptly complete the 2022 Needs Survey, including the assessment of replacement costs for all lead service lines mandated under the America's Water

¹ Pub. L. No. 117-58 (2021).

² The White House, *FACT SHEET: The Biden-Harris Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan* (Dec. 16, 2021) (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/16/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-lead-pipe-and-paint-action-plan/>).

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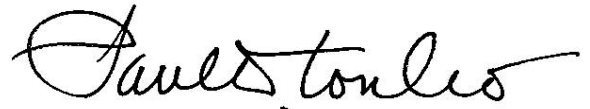
Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA),³ and incorporate the results into the fiscal year 2023 SRF funding allocation. Furthermore, EPA should segregate the lead funding from the other SRF resources and allocate the lead funds in accordance with demonstrated need. Unless EPA expeditiously completes that analysis, SRF resources for replacing LSLs will not be allocated in accordance with the assessed needs for this purpose, leaving overburdened communities to face risks related to lead pipes for even longer. As we heard in our March 29, 2022, hearing, “Trusting the Tap: Upgrading America's Drinking Water Infrastructure,” communities cannot afford further delay in addressing this serious, preventable public health issue.⁴

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. If you have any questions, please contact Timia Crisp with the Majority staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman



Paul D. Tonko
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
and Climate Change

³ Pub. L. No. 115–270 (2018).

⁴ House Committee on Energy and Commerce, *Trusting the Tap: Upgrading America's Drinking Water Infrastructure*, 117th Cong. (Mar. 29, 2022).