



A Resolution Submitted by Milwaukee, WI



ACCELERATING LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT IN GREAT LAKES BIG CITIES

May 2024

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 WHEREAS a substantial portion of these lead service lines are concentrated in Great Lakes big cities, with approximately 555,000 lead service lines concentrated in Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee alone.

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

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

AND WHEREAS the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides more than \$50 billion for upgrading drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure nationwide, including \$15 billion for lead service line replacement.

AND WHEREAS the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides \$65.1 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, funding that many Great Lakes communities have invested in lead service line replacement.

AND WHEREAS Great Lakes big cities are beginning to show tangible progress in implementing faster, more equitable lead service line replacement programs.

AND WHEREAS Chicago was recently awarded a \$336 million, low-interest loan from EPA under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to replace 30,000 lead service lines over three years.

AND WHEREAS Detroit has combined \$100 million from a variety of funding sources – including ARPA – to replace 15,000 lead service lines in two years in addition to launching a neighborhood by-neighborhood approach that uses socioeconomic indicators to guide replacements.

AND WHEREAS Milwaukee committed last year to cut its lead service line replacement timeline by one third – to 20 years – by creating an Equity Prioritization Plan to prioritize neighborhoods with the greatest need.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is proud to be an inaugural member of the Biden-Harris Get the Lead Out Partnership, which was formed in January 2023 to help achieve the administration’s goal of replacing 100 percent lead service lines nationwide within the next decade.

AND WHEREAS Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee joined the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative at the White House Water Summit in April 2024 to announce the Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership, a first-of-its kind, mayor-led effort to accelerate lead service line replacement in Great Lakes big cities with the heaviest lead burdens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership will seek to accelerate lead service line replacement in Great Lakes big cities with the heaviest lead burdens by:
 - Safeguarding the cost-effective, equitable implementation of the IJIA and existing federal funding streams while working with federal partners to secure additional investments in lead service line replacement
 - Exploring and implementing the full range of financing options for expediting lead service line replacement, including out-of-box and innovation solutions and alternative financing mechanisms
 - Sharing emerging best practices to encourage faster, more efficient and more equitable lead service line replacement and overcome common challenges, including but not limited to:
 - reducing per pipe replacement costs
 - building trust with community groups and residents
 - prioritizing underserved populations and neighborhoods with the greatest need

- improving water workforce development, including but not limited to facilitating the hiring of local workers and increasing apprenticeship utilization
 - sharing effective tactics for federal and state advocacy
- Any Cities Initiative member with more than 200,000 residents or more than 20,000 lead service lines upon the passage of this resolution may participate in the Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership
- The Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership will complement the ongoing work of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity to promote equitable access to clean, safe and affordable water for all residents of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: Michael Regan, Administrator, EPA; Bruno Pigott, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA; Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality and select members of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and the Great Lakes Task Force.