

THE CAMPAIGN FOR LEAD FREE WATER * DC ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
EARTHJUSTICE * NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL * WATER ALLIANCE

February 5, 2019

Via email: eom@dc.gov; Muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

**Re: Request to Fund Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure
Amendment Act of 2018**

Dear Mayor Bowser:

We write to express our thanks for your support of the Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018, signing it into District law. Lead service lines are dangerous, and expose District children to lead in their drinking water every day. The current practice of replacing only part of the line can result in elevated exposure to our children and other District residents. This law positions the District as a leader in protecting children from lead exposure, and is an important and significant step toward our ultimate goal of having a lead service line replacement program that is comprehensive, proactive, and fully publicly funded.

The purpose of the Act will only be achieved if the program receives robust financial support from the Council, and to that end we urge you to kick off the Act's implementation with full funding of \$5 million in the upcoming budget process. However, we understand that this year presents unforeseen challenges given the recent federal shutdown and other factors. We request that if \$5 million is not possible, you start implementation with at least \$1 million, an amount that is both reasonable and meaningful, as it would support full replacement of roughly 500 lead service lines that, prior to the law's enactment, would likely have been partial replacements.

Of course, in future years the funding for this program will need to increase, and we aim to work with you and your staff to ensure that steady funding is provided each of the next few years, so that the District can finally be rid of all partial and full lead service lines.

Respectfully submitted:

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Founding Member, Campaign for Lead Free Water
Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives
DC resident

Chris Weiss
Executive Director, DC Environmental Network

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