

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

It's long past time for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to get the lead out — both literally and figuratively — when it comes to water service lines. The EPA is dragging its feet on the release of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) allotments for lead service line replacement (LSLR). These funds are critical to efforts in Massachusetts and around the country to protect public health, advance our shared goal of removing all lead service lines for drinking water, and provide certainty for communities worried about their water infrastructure investments. The EPA needs to release this funding now.

In October 2024, the EPA finalized a rule requiring that, by 2037, drinking water systems identify and replace all water service lines that contain lead.¹ In the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Congress provided \$15 billion in dedicated LSLR funding, allocated at \$3 billion annually from FY 2022 to 2026, to ensure that states and communities have predictable, multi-year resources to plan and carry out this work.²

Despite this clear EPA mandate and congressionally approved funding, your agency has fallen dangerously behind in releasing FY25 LSLR funding. Now, nearly five months after the EPA announced other FY25 DWSRF allocations, the LSLR allotments remain on hold. Consequently, states and local water systems are being forced to pause or scale back shovel-ready projects that would otherwise be underway.³

¹ *Lead and Copper Rule Improvements*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (last updated Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>.

² Fact Sheet, *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: State Revolving Funds Implementation Memorandum*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Mar. 2022), [bil-srf-memo-fact-sheet-final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/bil-srf-memo-fact-sheet-final).

³ Miranda Wilson, *Lead Pipe Projects Face Delays Amid EPA Funding Holdup*, Politico (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/10/09/lead-pipe-projects-face-delays-amid-epa-funding-holdup-00599824>.

The science behind the need to replace these lines has not changed and the benefits of replacement far outweigh the costs.⁴ Delay jeopardizes public health protections for families, increases project costs, and undermines job creation in communities that stand ready to begin construction.⁵ Prolonged uncertainty surrounding funding availability is causing unnecessary disruption and inefficiency, while families nationwide continue to suffer harm from aging infrastructure that leaches lead into their drinking water. Lead exposure is unsafe at any level and disproportionately affects children and low-income families, especially in Latino and Black communities.⁶

Every week of delay has real consequences, particularly in states such as Massachusetts that have some of the oldest water infrastructure in the nation.⁷ Cities and towns have prepared bids, identified contractors, and engaged residents, yet cannot move forward until the EPA finalizes state allotments.⁸ Timely release of these funds will allow states to maintain construction momentum, protect public health, and adhere to the statutory mandate in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

We urge the EPA to prioritize the release of the FY25 DWSRF LSLR allotments without further delay. Doing so will ensure that states and local communities can continue to replace lead service lines, safeguard drinking water, and create good-paying jobs in the process. Accordingly, we ask that you please respond in writing to this letter by December 4, 2025 with a timeline identifying when these allotments will be distributed.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We urge you to demonstrate a commitment to eliminating lead from our drinking water systems by promptly distributing this important funding.

Sincerely,

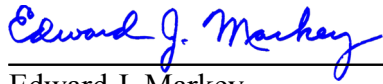
⁴ Ronnie Levin and Joel Schwartz, *A better cost: benefit analysis yields better and fairer results: EPA's lead and copper rule revision*, 229 *Environmental Research* 115738, (July 15, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2023.115738>.

⁵ Miranda Wilson, *Lead Pipe Projects Face Delays Amid EPA Funding Holdup*, Politico (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/10/09/lead-pipe-projects-face-delays-amid-epa-funding-holdup-00599824>.

⁶ Deniz Yeter et al., *Disparity in Risk Factor Severity for Early Childhood Blood Lead among Predominantly African-American Black Children: The 1999 to 2010 US NHANES*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/5/1552>; *Lead Service Lines Disproportionately Impact Latino Communities*, Columbia Mailman School of Public Health (Aug. 30, 2023), <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/news/lead-service-lines-nyc-disproportionately-impact-hispanic-latino-communities-children-already-risk-lead-exposure>.

⁷ Massachusetts Water Authority, *Water System History*, <https://www.mwra.com/your-water-system/water-system-history> (last accessed Oct. 30, 2025).

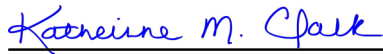
⁸ Miranda Wilson, *EPA Funding Holdup Threatens This City's Lead Pipe Plan*, Politico (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/10/14/epa-funding-holdup-threatens-this-citys-lead-pipe-plan-00607895>.



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



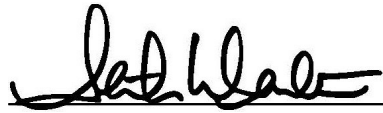
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



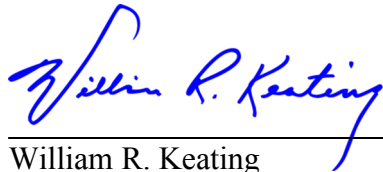
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



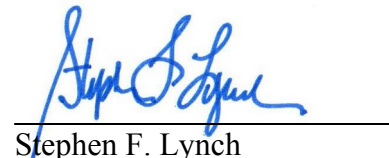
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



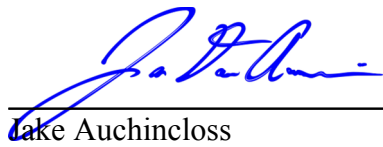
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
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Jess Kramer, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
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