

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

We write to encourage you to ensure that the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)—which is scheduled to be updated and released in early 2020—require water systems to collect, maintain, and publish data about lead service lines (LSLs). While EPA has agreed with a previous Government Accountability Office recommendation that it require such information, that recommendation has not been implemented. Accurate LSL inventories will help communities, businesses, and local, state, and federal officials better understand where LSLs exist and what resources may be required to replace them.

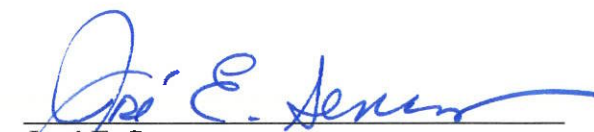
As you may know, the total number of LSLs is unknown because the LCR does not require all water systems to collect or maintain such data or report it to EPA. While some estimates exist about the total number of LSLs in the United States, varying approaches to data collection have yielded different estimates making the data unreliable. Imprecise data will also affect long-term estimates of how much funds will be required to replace all LSLs.

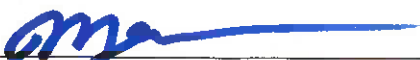
This serious issue must be addressed if we are to eliminate LSLs and ensure all Americans have access to clean and safe drinking water. Many states are developing their own guidelines and policies to address LSLs and help communities replace them. While some states have adopted laws that require water systems to collect, maintain, and publish inventories of their LSLs, other states have adopted voluntary approaches, and still others have taken little or no action – this variability and inconsistency in data collection makes it more difficult to locate and eliminate lead pipes. An updated LCR that requires water systems to collect, maintain, and publish data about LSLs will enable Congress and the EPA to ensure adequate steps are taken to eliminate lead pipes.

As EPA continues its efforts to promote and advance safe drinking water across the nation, please do not hesitate to let Congress know how it can support this goal. Our offices stand ready to support EPA's fight in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

  
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

  
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José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Max Rose  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



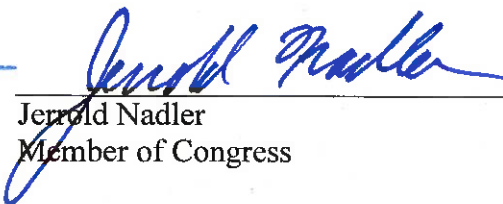
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress