



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

LEAD PIPE RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

S.5512- RIVERA

A.6115 - PAULIN

DESCRIPTION: Requires each water utility to develop a comprehensive inventory of all the service lines in its system by October 2024, regularly update those inventories with new information, and make information accessible to the public.

JUSTIFICATION

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water, especially for our children. Drinking water is one pathway of lead exposure and a common source of lead contamination comes from lead service lines (LSLs), which are the pipes that connect water mains to properties. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an estimated 494,000 of these dangerous pipes deliver water to homes and businesses in NYS, causing contamination and disproportionately harming low-income communities and communities of color.

This legislation will deliver greater transparency about New Yorkers' risk of lead in drinking water. The EPA is currently requiring each water utility to develop and regularly update an inventory of all the LSLs in their distribution system. But EPA has few requirements relating to the accessibility of these inventories. This legislation codifies requirements by EPA and guidance from the NYS Department of Health (DOH) for each water utility to develop an inventory by October 2024 and regularly update those inventories with new information. It also requires DOH to make the inventories available on the department's website, and to create interactive maps allowing New Yorkers to easily learn their risk of having a LSL and visualize the risk to public health in their community.

Greater knowledge of the scale of this urgent problem would help secure and target state and federal resources needed to put New York on a path to 100% LSL replacement. CCE urges the legislature to pass this important legislation.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

A.6115/S.5512 – Lead Pipe Right to Know Act

CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

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