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[DATE]

Hon. Wayne Fontana

543 Main Capitol

Senate Box 203042

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Fontana:

I write to express my support for Senate Bill 639, which would allow municipalities and municipal authorities to make public funds available to repair or replace broken sewer laterals and water lines on private property when the leaks pose a threat to public health or safety. Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation.

As a resident of Pittsburgh, I am directly impacted by the City’s declining water quality and crumbling sewer infrastructure. The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority has clearly stated that in our community, elevated levels of lead can be found in drinking water. I personally have had my water tested through the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority and results indicate my levels are \_\_\_ parts per billion, exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency’s lead action level of 15 ppb.

At present, any repairs undertaken by PWSA cannot extend to private water lines and sewer laterals. Thus, the burden to ensure safer drinking water is placed solely on individual property owners like myself. Repairs to private lines conservatively start at $5,000, a prohibitive cost for the majority of PWSA’s 83,000 customers. If property owners cannot afford these necessary repairs, the water and sewer systems are further compromised, as is the health and safety of those who use them.

Specifically, your proposed legislation amends the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Act to allow municipalities and public water authorities such as PWSA to use state and local money to replace both water lines and sewer lines. Passage of this bill has the potential to ease the financial burden of home and business owners, thereby increasing the speed and likelihood of repair, and can save cities and municipalities money in the future by allowing more underground work to be done at one time.

On behalf of my family and my neighbors, I request that you share letters like mine with your colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives and urge them to join you in support of this crucial effort. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]

[PHONE/EMAIL]