

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Carper:

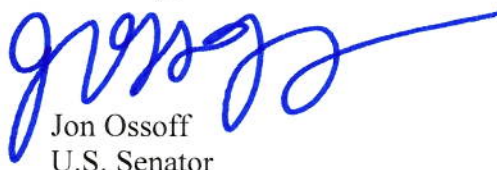
Every child, in Georgia and nationwide, deserves clean, healthy drinking water. That is why I respectfully urge you to include funding for remediation of lead pipes at public schools in Georgia and nationwide in S. 915, the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act.

According to the CDC, there is no safe level of lead exposure for children. Lead can slow development and cause behavior and hearing problems in children, as well as lasting kidney and brain damage. Unfortunately, test results show that most schools across the country have concerning levels of lead in their pipes, plumbing or fixtures. The health threat of lead in water deserves immediate attention since lead is highly toxic and disproportionately affects children who attend school, pre-school and child care programs.

Recently, Georgia received an "F" in U.S. PIRG's "*Get the Lead Out*" report, joining 22 states that need to do better to protect children from lead in schools' drinking water. In December, Georgia's State Board of Education announced that it would test 800 schools for lead in drinking water. The state's preliminary estimates determined that the tests would find high levels of lead in hundreds of faucets in public schools statewide. Once testing is completed, schools or school districts would be responsible for replacing the contaminated pipes, placing a heavy burden on schools already struggling financially.

Most, if not all states and school districts need federal assistance to replace leaded water pipes at public schools. Therefore, it is imperative that S. 915 include funding for lead remediation programs to replace water pipes and reduce lead exposure for children.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
U.S. Senator

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AND URBAN AFFAIRS

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