

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO REPLACE OUR LEAD WATER LINES

There are an estimated 500,000 lead-contaminated lines in New York State. The Environmental Protection Agency requires the state to remove these lines by 2037.

THE QUICK MATH: That means that the state would have to replace more than 41,000 lines per year over the next 12 years to meet the deadline, at an annual cost of more than \$400 million.

LEAD IS A THREAT

Even low levels of lead exposure can lead to high blood pressure, cardiovascular and kidney issues, neurological disorders, reproductive risks, and impaired brain development in children.

No one questions the science. The question is why so little funding is reaching the municipalities that need to replace their lead-contaminated water lines.

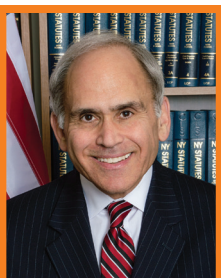
OBSTACLES TO LEAD LINE REPLACEMENT

- So far, **less than \$550 million in state and federal money has been awarded** for lead water line inventory and removal.
- The current system pits municipalities against each other in a competitive grant process.
- Many municipalities, especially smaller or economically challenged ones, lack the capacity to apply for grants.
- There is no agency oversight on costs, which range \$5,000-\$23,000 per line.

In my own district, the cities of Newburgh and Poughkeepsie have aging water systems with thousands of contaminated water lines. This story is repeated across the state. But removing these lines is not optional.

WHAT I'M DOING ABOUT IT

I've introduced **Bill A10568**, which would restructure the state's now-defunct Lead Service Line Replacement Program as **the Consolidated Lead-Line Elimination and Replacement Program (CLEAR Program)**. CLEAR would be a non-competitive reimbursement program for lead line replacement, similar to the popular CHIPS funding program for roadwork. Instead of focusing on applications for limited funding, municipalities would be reimbursed up to \$10,000 per lead line replaced, plus interest on related loans.



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