

Richard M. Kenney

1299 Podunk Road
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

Home: (802) 296-2437
Cell: (802) 282-5486
Email rkenneyvt@yahoo.com

February 26, 2019

Representative Kathryn Webb, Chair
House Committee on Education
Vermont State Legislature
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Representative Webb and members of the Committee,

This letter is to provide comments on bill S.40 - *An act relating to testing and remediation of lead in the drinking water of schools and child care facilities.*

I have served in the drinking water profession since 1973. For the past thirty one years, I have been employed as Chief Water System Operator for the Town of Hartford, Vermont where I am responsible for the operation, maintenance and repair of the two municipal water systems. I have been the contract water operator for the Child Care Center in Norwich for more than twenty years. Additionally I am the past president for the Green Mountain Water Environment Association (GMWEA). GMWEA is a non-profit organization that represents Vermont's water quality professionals.

My job as a water system operator is to provide safe quality drinking water to the public at a reasonable cost. This is a job I take very seriously.

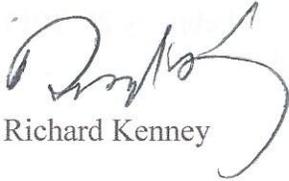
While I agree with the concept of this bill, I have concerns with some of its details.

Action Level: The action level should be consistent with requirements set for public drinking water systems. The bill sets the action level at three parts per billion (ppb) for first draw samples. The current action level for public water systems is fifteen parts per billion (pbb). EPA set that level as a way to identify the corrosiveness of the water of a public water system. A first draw sample will have the highest lead level in most cases. In most cases, the issue with lead is all but eliminated after the line is flushed and the water is being used. Lowering the limit could actually have negative effects. The lower action level may require installation of filters when a simple flushing procedure could suffice. If these filters are not properly maintained they could actually increase the lead level.

Lacking Detailed Flushing Procedure: Lead is one of the few contaminants where it needs contact time for it to become an issue. EPA, VT DEC and public water purveyors advocate flushing the cold water before using and never use hot water from a faucet for consumption. Flushing is one of the best and most cost effective ways to remove lead from drinking water. Rather than waiting until remediation to implement a flushing plan, I recommend it become a daily function in schools.

I am available to discuss this further. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Kenney

Cc: Rep. Lawrence Cupoli, Vice Chair
Rep. Peter Conlon, Ranking Member
Rep. Sarah "Sarita" Austin
Rep. Lynn Batchelor
Rep. Caleb Elder
Rep. Dylan Giambatista
Rep. Kathleen James, Clerk
Rep. Philip Jay Hooper
Rep. Christopher Mattos
Rep. Casey Toof