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March 21, 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,

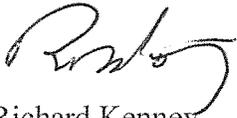
These comments are in response to your committee discussion on Bill S.40 on March 20, 2019.

1. Please consider the consequences in setting the "First Draw" lead sample action level at a point lower than the current EPA level (15 parts per billion after six hours standing time). Doing so will cause confusion with consumers; with them questioning why the water they drink at their home is less of a concern than the water being consumed at a school. (It is the same source of water in many cases). Please consider setting the lower action level only for the flushed sample.
2. If you must lower the "First Draw" Action Level, I respectfully request that you also reduce the standing time. (i.e. 5 parts per billion after three hours standing time). Doing so would make a distinction between the EPA compliant sample for a public water system and the State required sample taken at a school. The difference between the two can be explained to the general public and still meet the requirements of this bill.
3. Please consider that the schools and daycare centers that are classified as public water systems will still have to comply with the Vermont Water Supply Rule for lead testing.
4. Please consider adding a flushing procedure component to the bill. While it may not be adequate for remediation, it is the most practical and cost effective step to take. Aside from costing almost nothing, it is a great way to promote the practice to the general public. And it has been proven to work very well in eliminating/reducing the lead in drinking water.

5. Finally, as a taxpayer, please consider the real cost of both implementing and maintaining the components of this bill. Include in that cost, the financial impact on public water systems when they will be required to adhere to the lower "First Draw" action level of this bill. While public water systems are not part of this bill, I suspect it will be up for the discussion in the future. I would prefer that discussion happen at the Federal level.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Richard Kenney

Chief Water System Operator, Town of Hartford

Contract Water Operator, The Child Care Center in Norwich

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