



Addison Central School District

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House Education Committee

S.40 – Testing for Lead in Water Supplies (Schools; Childcare Facilities)

February 26, 2019

Good afternoon. I am Brittany Gilman, Business Manager for Addison Central School District. Addison Central School District includes seven elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school, and represents the towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, and Weybridge. In January 2019, Addison Central School District was pleased to partner with a team at Middlebury College, led by Dr. Molly Costanza-Robinson, to undergo lead testing. In an effort to be proactive, we have already begun remediation based on the recommendations of the researchers. In examining Addison Central School District's data in the context of S.40, my observations are as follows:

1. **Definition.** As currently proposed, S.40 includes a broad definition of "outlet" (a drinking water fixture currently or potentially used for consumption or cooking purposes...). This could be interpreted to include all outlets in a school, even those for which utilization for drinking purposes would be unlikely. Examples of these outlets are bathroom and utility sinks. This definition could reasonably be expected to lead to more extensive remediation.
2. **Funding.** In Senate Proposal of Amendment to H.97, \$860,000 has been allocated to fund the estimated 50 percent State share of tap remediation costs. My belief is that this estimate may be significantly underfunded based on Addison Central School District's estimation of remediation costs. At a 3 ppb action level, we estimate remediation compliant with S.40 as written to cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, conservatively. This assumes replacement of fixtures only, but does not include plumbing and replacement costs of more distal piping. For some districts, more extensive remediation may be necessary, which greatly increases remediation costs. I understand that Jeffrey Francis of the Vermont Superintendents Association has input regarding the funding allocation and method, so I will not speak to that issue except to say that the amount allocated appears to be insufficient, and that remediation, even with a 50% reimbursement, may be a burden to school district finances across the state.

In conclusion, while I fully support testing and remediation efforts, as well as the purpose of the bill as stated, I believe the funding needed to comply with the 3 ppb action level exceeds what has been allocated. I would urge the legislature to consider additional funding to complete this important initiative.