



June 18, 2020

Dear Minnesota Legislators:

As the legislature works on a range of high priority issues this special session, we want to remind you of the importance of restoring important jobs and economic activity, as well as protecting public health across the state through passing a robust capital investment package

In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, 40% of waters tested don't meet water quality standards. One reason for this is that water infrastructure put in place 50 – 60 years ago is in dire need of replacement, and without needed upgrades, towns, cities, and their residents will suffer. However, updating water infrastructure systems is a cost many communities can't bear alone.

**This year's bonding bill can help to rebuild Minnesota's economy and communities. Please maximize this potential by making a commitment of at least \$300 million to fix the water infrastructure problems across our state.** Water infrastructure improvements at this scale can play a key role in jumpstarting the economy and improving the quality of life across the state in the following ways:

**Jobs:** Data compiled by the Fix the Pipes Alliance shows water infrastructure projects will create approximately 7,200 jobs in construction, engineering, manufacturing, and other fields statewide.

**Economic Impact:** Alliance estimates show the total economic impact generated by these projects in urban, suburban, and rural Minnesota communities would exceed \$1.8 billion. Many of the projects can immediately move ahead pending legislative approval.

**Public Health:** The projects would protect and improve public health by mitigating flooding and reducing untreated sewage and other pollution that enters rivers, ponds, and lakes across Minnesota.

From keeping Minnesota's drinking and swimming waters clean to replacing old lead service lines and deteriorating water mains, the need for improving Minnesota's water systems to ensure clean lakes, rivers and streams has never been greater. These projects are good for everyone in Minnesota, no matter where we live. Please visit [www.FixThePipes.org](http://www.FixThePipes.org) for more background information.

With historic need matching historic opportunity, we hope you will support a large overall bonding bill, including at least \$300 million to improve and ensure the health and safety of our water.

Thank you,  
Fix the Pipes Coalition



Alliance for Sustainability



American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota



Blue Green Alliance



Clean Up the River Environment



Clean Water Action Minnesota



Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities



Conservation Minnesota



Environment Minnesota



Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas



Friends of the Mississippi River



Honor the Earth



Izaak Walton League – Minnesota Division



Land Stewardship Project



League of Minnesota Cities



League of Women Voters - Minnesota



League of Women Voters – Upper Mississippi River Region

## Mankato Area Environmentalists



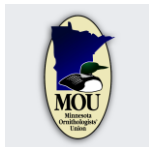
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy



Minnesota Environmental Partnership



Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light



Minnesota Ornithological Union



Minnesota Rural Water Association



Minnesota Well Owners Organization



Pollinate Minnesota



Sierra Club North Star Chapter



The Nature Conservancy