



MARK MILLER
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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April 2, 2019

Rep. Todd Novak, Chair
310 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Rep. Katrina Shankland, Vice-Chair
304 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chair Novak and Vice-Chair Shankland,

I look forward to serving on the Speaker's Water Quality Task Force. I was encouraged by your public commitment at the initial meeting to have legislation introduced by this fall. Most of the science regarding water contamination is well known. I hope the Task Force will incorporate that knowledge to propose effective legislation to protect public health that will be considered by the legislature this year, the Year of Clean Water as declared by Governor Evers.

I am concerned that the initial list of public venues for Task Force hearings does not include the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee has the highest concentration of older residential buildings with lead pipe connections. Milwaukee County has 95,000 lead service lines. The next highest is Racine County with about 14,000 lead service lines.

Milwaukee County has the highest population of African American residents. African American children in Wisconsin test for lead poisoning (BLL > 5mcg/dl) at twice the rate for European Americans. Half of the children in Wisconsin with lead poisoning are African American. I think it is essential to hear from the families that are most affected. The closest proposed hearing is currently in Racine County, which may preclude the population in Milwaukee most significantly affected by lead pipe poisoning from attending or testifying on the challenges they face as parents in safeguarding the health of their households.

I urge you to find a venue in the City of Milwaukee for a Task Force hearing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Miller
State Senator
16th Senate District