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Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION,
VICE RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$3,000,000 in funding for the City of Garfield Lead Service Line Removal Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Garfield located at 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026.

The City of Garfield Lead Service Line Removal Project would fund the removal and replacement of known lead service lines throughout the municipality. The service lines in question carry water from the Water Treatment Facility to homes and businesses across the City of Garfield and residents use this water for a wide range of daily activities like showering, washing hands, washing dishes, and drinking water, and the presence of any contaminants poses a significant danger to their health. Garfield has a total of 268 known sites that contain lead piping, and it is currently working on identifying the status of 2,664 potentially contaminated locations..

The proposed project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will help to ensure that the people of NJ-09 have access to clean and safe drinking water. According to the EPA, lead pipes are more likely to be found in old cities and structures that were built before 1986. Of the total housing stock of in the City, approximately 10,357 structures (86%) were built before 1980, therefore increasing the likelihood of undiscovered contaminants in the water infrastructure. The removal and replacement of lead pipes across the City will ensure that the City of Garfield's drinking water is safe.

The City of Garfield is able to meet the minimum 20% cost share requirement under the EPA Drinking Water State REvolving requirement.

The project complies with the federal nexus, as the project is a drinking water project found within Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the water treatment project under 40 CFR 35.3520(b)(2)(ii).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nellie Pou". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and "P".

Nellie Pou

Member of Congress

9th Congressional District of New Jersey