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STATEMENT REGARDING LEAD IN OUR DRINKING WATER  
FOR THE NYS WATER HEARINGS

LI Clean Air Water and Soil, Ltd (“CAWS”) believes that the health and safety of our communities should be everyone's top priority. Yet, until recently, health and environmental agencies apparently have not made the presence of lead in our water a priority. Recent testing of lead in our schools shows an alarming presence of lead in many school districts. Exposure of children to lead in water at their schools is a huge problem - but what about at their homes? If the school water is contaminated, that is the same supply as the homes in the area. LI CAWS is very concerned with the presence of lead, not only in our schools' water, but in our homes as well.

Lead is a highly toxic metal that may cause a range of health problems, especially in young children. When lead is absorbed into the body, it can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs, like the kidneys, nerves and blood. Lead may also cause behavioral problems, learning disabilities, seizures and in extreme cases, death. ([HUD.Gov.](http://HUD.Gov))

Lead paints have been taken off the market since 1978. Title 10, Article 13, Section 1373 of the NYS Public Health Law regulates methods of handling lead paint in homes, including encapsulation, replacement, enclosure, or removal. Yet, somehow, testing our water supply for lead has been haphazard, uncoordinated and ineffective. In Nassau, for example, the Dept. of Health failed to test underground injection wells for years (2010-2014).

Now, because of the health disaster in Flint, Michigan due to lead in its water, lead in our drinking water is finally being taken seriously. New York State recently passed legislation requiring school districts to test for lead in their drinking water. Twenty school districts on Long Island were reported to have excessive levels of lead in their drinking water. LI CAWS believes it to be even more widespread. But children, and everyone else, are more exposed to water in their homes.

It is estimated that anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 of residents being served by American Water are getting their water from company owned lead pipes. The number of homes that have lead pipes from the street to the house is indeterminable.

We applaud our Governor taking a strong stand in requiring schools to test for lead in our water. But we believe the bigger problem is the number of homes that are getting their

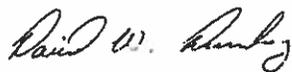
drinking water through lead pipes.

On June 29, 2016, CNN reported that more than 5,300 water systems in America are in violation of the EPA's lead and copper rule, a federal regulation in place to safeguard America's drinking water from its aging infrastructure. According to CNN's Report, more than 18 million Americans live in communities where water utilities are in violation of the law. Common violations include failure to properly test water for lead, failure to report contamination to residents, and failure to treat water properly to avoid lead contamination. "Among the bad practices adopted by water utilities: selectively testing homes that are unlikely to have high levels of lead, asking residents to "pre-flush" their taps, and taking water samples "slowly," which reduces lead levels."

In furtherance to NYS' laws to prevent lead poisoning, CAWS demands that NYS strengthen its Public Health Laws to regulate, not only testing and abating lead in our schools' water, but in ALL households in New York in the same manner in which it regulates lead paint. Is the problem from old water pipes or is the problem from contamination of the water supply itself? Without real testing and monitoring, we cannot identify the areas of concern or indeed, the problem.

Further, CAWS demands that all public and private water suppliers in New York state notify residents within their territories of any and all lead pipes that supply their homes with drinking water. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) or Department of Health (DOH) must take responsibility to implement a testing program designed to test, evaluate and analyze the problem, otherwise there will never be an actual solution.

Very truly yours,



Claudia Borecky and Dave Denenberg  
Directors