



Mayor  
Kelly Burke

Clerk  
Kelly Duffy

## Village of Evergreen Park

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September 13, 2024

Honorable Gerald Bennett  
Chair, CMAP  
433 W. Van Buren St., Ste. 450  
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Mayor Bennett:

We are writing to bring to your attention potential shortfalls in funding for lead service line replacement in Illinois.

Like you, we are all committed to replacing this problematic water infrastructure that can potentially impact the health and safety of our residents. However, many of us will not be able to meet the deadlines for replacement established by the state of Illinois and the federal government. This is not due to the lack of will, expertise, or technical capacity, but mainly owing to the large number of lead service lines we have in our municipalities and the lack of financial resources to address them.

There are myriad reasons for the disproportionate number of lead services lines in our communities. Unfortunately, our communities' financial resources are outweighed by demand. For some of us, even if we dedicated every municipal dollar to this effort, it would take decades and during that timespan we would be unable to invest in other capital projects of any sort. And asking individual water customers to bear this burden is unrealistic.

To offset our municipal costs, we rely on programs like the State Revolving Fund which is capitalized with both state and federal funds and is administered by the Illinois EPA. Some of us can utilize U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants. Many of us committed federal American Recovery Rescue Plan Act dollars for line replacement. A few of us have benefited from Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending from our members of

Congress. All bundled together, these programs help, but even then, many of us will not reach our replacement goals in a timely manner.

We do not wish to come purely “hat in hand” to our state and federal elected leaders, but as a starting point we hope to bring to attention that while recent additional funding is very helpful, it is unfortunately insufficient. We cannot put the “Mission Accomplished” banner up on addressing lead service lines simply because the law now requires replacement – there is more work to do and it will take time and funding to complete it.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is an impactful organization representing local government interests in both Springfield and Washington. As local municipal leaders, we encourage CMAP to include this issue in your policy platforms when advocating in our state and nation’s capitals.

Potential policy positions that CMAP could adopt include, but are not limited to:

- Increase federal funding to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) in the FY26 federal budget;
- Create additional loan programs dedicated to lead service line replacement;
- Revisit and amend SRF selection criteria to factor percentage of lead service lines to community population size into project selection for consideration for the forgivable loans through the Illinois EPA.

We do not expect a solution overnight, but we want to ensure that policy and decision makers understand the size and scope of the need as well as the funding landscape. We hope CMAP and its pertinent committees might take up this matter, and work with communities like ours to create more policy and funding solutions.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any immediate questions, please contact Kelly Burke, Mayor, Village of Evergreen Park at [kburke@evpkadm.org](mailto:kburke@evpkadm.org) or 708-422-1551.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Burke".

Mayor Kelly Burke  
Village of Evergreen Park

CC: Erin Aleman, Executive Director, CMAP



President Frank DeSimone  
Village of Bensenville



Mayor Sergio Rodriguez  
Village of Summit



Mayor Robert Lovero  
City of Berwyn




Mayor Fred Bilotto  
City of Blue Island



Mayor Ronald Denson  
Village of Calumet Park




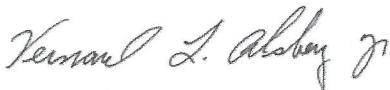
President Angelo "Skip" Saviano  
Village of Elmwood Park



Mayor Daniel Biss  
City of Evanston

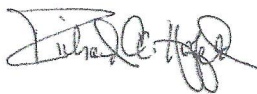


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