

Submitter: Jan Weir  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

My name is Jan Wier, City Councilor for the City of Oakland. We are a small city, with a population of 938. I am here to speak about the unfunded mandate for the replacement of lead and copper piping.

Oakland's water plant and parts of our distribution system are actually still wooden pipes. Lateral lines to homes and businesses are often as old as the buildings themselves. Due to the age of our water distribution system and the requirements of the lead and copper mandate, the cost would be prohibitive for a small city, such as Oakland. The current base rates for water service that a citizen pays monthly is \$144.04 for a home and \$151.05 for a business, before water usage is calculated. The city would be very reluctant to increase these to fund the regulations.

This law has set up small cities for failure. A failure would result in fines, which further impede our ability to comply with the mandate. I believe the state should take into consideration the plight of the small cities and provide funding to cities with a population of 1,000 people or less.

EPA adopted revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule in 2021 that include a requirement for public water systems to conduct inventories of service lines and to identify service line material type. The intent of the service line inventory requirement is to identify those service lines made of lead so that they can be scheduled for removal and replacement.

Public water systems must conduct an inventory of all service lines, on both the water system side and the homeowner side of the meter and submit the results to OHA—Drinking Water Services (DWS) by October 16, 2024.

- Any piping installed after January 1, 1986, can be categorized as non-lead. If the water supplier has a documented construction standard established prior to that date that did not allow lead to be used for service lines, any service installed after that date can be categorized as non-lead.

Oakland, Oregon was established as an Incorporated City in 1878 and existed as a town long before that time.

Oakland was the first city to be placed on the state's historic register, in May 1968. The city's two-block business district consists of the original brick buildings built in the 1880s and 1890s. Over 80 properties in the city were constructed between 1852 and 1890. The Oakland Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1979.[7]

Unlike other more modern towns in Oregon, the City of Oakland has 90% of its

homes and businesses older than 1986.

The existing underground water line infrastructure is made of wood pipes, asbestos concrete pipes, steel pipes, ductile iron pipes and schedule 40 pipes and C900 pipe cobble together with lead solder at the joints and old fittings containing lead.

The City of Oakland has approximately 89 fire hydrants, some of which are over 89 years old, that contain lead and each hydrant costs approximately \$7000 to \$10,000 to replace.

Installing a water main cost an average of \$50 to \$150 per linear foot. Prices may reach as high as \$250 per linear foot in areas with a high cost of living and for lines that are difficult to access.

The City of Oakland has approximately 11 miles of water lines, of which 3 miles were upgraded in the year 2000. All other water lines were constructed before 1986.

Water and Sewer Customers in Oakland Oregon pay nearly \$150+ per month that is already scheduled to exceed \$200 per month within the next 10 years. Replacement of the lead and copper lines would cost an additional \$45 per month per household not including the cost to replace the service lines to each home and business.