



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Fix the Pipes applauds water investments in bonding package**

**ST. PAUL** – Today, Minnesota’s Legislators achieved a breakthrough for the state’s economy and public health with the passage of a bonding bill that includes more than \$302 million in funding for water infrastructure. This bipartisan legislation will fund much-needed investments to upgrade and repair the systems that provide Minnesotans with safe drinking water, safeguard communities from flooding, and protect lakes and rivers from pollution.

Fix the Pipes - a nonpartisan alliance of city, business, labor, engineering and environmental leaders, applauded this watershed legislative deal. The alliance was formed to support exactly this kind of investment - at least \$300 million in water infrastructure in 2020. The water projects in this bill alone are estimated to create more than 7,000 jobs and generate \$1.8 billion in economic activity across Minnesota.

**"Across the state, many city wastewater and drinking water systems are desperately in need of upgrade and replacement,"** said Craig Johnson, League of Minnesota Cities lobbyist. **"Cities appreciate the state stepping up to help address those needs. Not only are these projects extremely important for economic development, public health, and environmental reasons, but the planning, construction, and operation of these facilities is urgently needed to boost the state’s economic recovery."**

**"Minnesota’s workers are ready to repair and replace drinking and wastewater systems around the state,"** said Bree Halverson, Minnesota Regional Program Manager for the BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of labor unions and environmental organizations. **"The bill passed by the Legislature will create the jobs we need to jumpstart our state’s economy and help get our state get back on track economically, all while reducing water waste and ensuring Minnesotans have safe drinking water."**

**"These investments are a long-needed, significant step forward for safe water and public health in our state,"** said Steve Morse, Executive Director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. **"Minnesota is home to some of the nation’s greatest water resources, and investing in the systems that keep them clean now will pay off for decades to come."**

**"The \$300 million in funding for water infrastructure represents a sound investment in Minnesota’s future,"** said Jonathan Curry, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota. **"The water projects funded in this bill will result in innovative engineering solutions that keep Minnesotans safe, hundreds of high paying professional services jobs, and a positive long term impact on water safety in Minnesota."**

**"This jobs bill makes a historic investment in clean water infrastructure across Minnesota,"** said Kathryn Hoffman, Chief Executive Officer of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. **"It is a tremendous bipartisan victory that once again demonstrates that protecting clean water brings Minnesotans together."**

The members of the Fix the Pipes alliance commend legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle for their work on this legislation, and express hope that this will be the first in a series of investment packages to upgrade the systems that keep Minnesota communities safe and healthy.

More information about the Fix the Pipes alliance and how the state's more than \$300 million water infrastructure bonding proposal will improve Minnesota's quality of life is at [www.FixThePipes.org](http://www.FixThePipes.org).

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