

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0533**

July 1, 2016

The Honorable Stephen Ayers  
Architect of the Capitol  
Senate Basement 16  
Washington, DC 20515

William M. Weidemeyer  
Superintendent, House Office Buildings  
Rayburn B341  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ayers and Mr. Weidemeyer,

I am writing in regards to your June 28 announcement that lead levels in the drinking water in the Cannon House Office Building are above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safe drinking water standards. As you know, the EPA safe standard for lead in water is 15 ppb, and some of the water in Cannon measured lead levels over three times the legal limit. My constituents, staff, and I have been potentially exposed to lead poisoning, as well as the constituents, staff, and members of Congress in the dozens of other offices in the Cannon building.

The Dear Colleague your office released on June 28 was vague and provided very little details for our understandably anxious constituents, staff, and members of Congress who have all been frequent consumers of water from the Cannon building. My staff actually contacted the water filter company for our office, and they informed us that the filter *does not protect against any level of lead*. The updated fact sheet your office released on June 29 indicated the water had not been tested since September 2015. The fact sheet also stated that five of 26 primary drinking water sources have elevated lead contents, and that all the drinking fountains have been turned off.

I understand a briefing will be held tomorrow on the lead contamination, a full three days after the initial announcement, which is coming rather late for anxious staff, worried about lead poisoning. Due to the lack of transparency and information to relieve our worried constituents and staff, I respectfully request that your office answers the following questions:

- Which drinking water fountains in Cannon have been found to have elevated lead poisoning?
- Why has the water in Cannon not been tested for lead since September?
- Who is in charge of testing the water?
- Will you be providing lead poisoning tests for everyone in the Cannon House Office Building who has potentially been exposed?
- You said that the drinking water stations had been turned off, however, the drinking water is still running in my office. When will you shut this off?

- The signs placed on the water fountains and in the bathroom simply say “Do Not Drink the Water.” The signs do not, however, say that this is due to lead poisoning, potentially leading to confusion and risk for visiting constituents. Will you update the signs to provide information about the lead poisoning?
- The signs do not say there is any risk in washing our hands in the bathroom. What if someone has a cut or open wound? Will you provide more details about what is safe and not safe in regards to the lead tainted water?
- Are other House and Senate office buildings at risk?
- Will Cannon consider replacing all of its lead pipes?
- When will this be resolved?

Thank you for your time, and my constituents, staff, and I would appreciate a prompt response. Please contact my staffer, Megan Price, with any questions or further correspondence at [megan.price@mail.house.gov](mailto:megan.price@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu

Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Gina McCarthy

Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency