



Erin Brockovich Foundation, Inc.



May 14, 2021

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

We write in support of Assembly Bill 100, a bill that will significantly reduce Californians' daily exposure to lead, a very dangerous neurotoxin and carcinogen. AB 100 prohibits the sale, or introduction into commerce, of any drinking water faucet, fixture, water fountain or other end use device that, after three weeks of testing, leaches more than one microgram of lead into one liter of drinking water.

Current state law prohibits a person from introducing into commerce, or installing or repairing, any plumbing end use device intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption that is not lead free. The law defines fixtures to be "lead free" if they contain no more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead on their wetted surfaces – where water touches the fixture.

Plumbing fixtures also have to be certified by an independent American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third party, such as the NSF International, as being in compliance with the state standard. The related ANSI certification additionally requires fixtures to leach no more than five micrograms of lead.

Although the ANSI certification itself prohibits certified fixtures from leaching more than five micrograms of lead, and allows fixtures to be certified to leach no more than one microgram of lead, California law does not express a lead leaching standard. As a result, state enforcement actions, such as the Department of Toxic Substances Control's faucet testing, do not address the lead-leaching rates of faucets and fixtures sold in California.

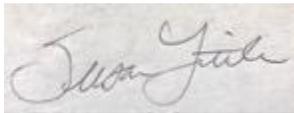
NSF International tested 500 faucets that met the California lead-content standard and found that 73% of the faucets leached an average of less than one microgram of lead after three weeks of daily flushing. However, some faucets, even those that meet the current lead-content standard, leach much more. The NSF International's test results demonstrated that after water had been flushed through faucets over the course of three weeks, 3.9% of the faucets tested continued to leach an average of more than five micrograms of lead, and one faucet leached as much as 39 micrograms on one day of the test.

The need to reduce lead leaching from faucets is even more acute in 2021, because schools are testing their drinking water for lead, and child care centers will soon have to follow suit. Should a school or center need to reduce its lead levels, it will first seek to replace its faucets with ones that leach as little lead as possible. Labeling standards, however, do not differentiate the lower-leaching faucets from others. As a result, schools, centers, and consumers alike cannot identify the lowest-leaching faucets in the marketplace. By requiring that all faucets on store shelves meet the strictest lead-leaching standard, AB 100 will ensure that Californians have clear access to the most health-protective devices.

California has progressively worked to reduce residents' lead exposure. The state can lessen Californians' lead exposure further by greatly limiting the amount of lead that faucets and fixtures leach into the public's drinking water.

AB 100 ensures that faucets and plumbing fixtures sold in California leach as little lead as possible, both during a faucet's three-week curing process, and on a regular basis. Amendments provided to the committee greatly reduce the bill's fiscal cost, extend the implementation date of the new standard, and ensure that consumers will easily be able to identify the lower-leaching faucets. We would ask that the committee support this measure.

Sincerely,



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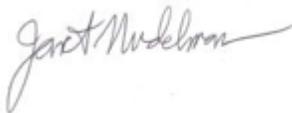
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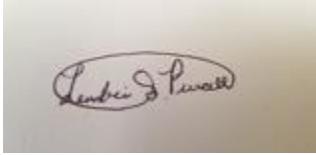
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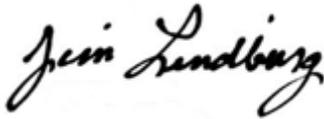
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