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March 5, 2018

The Honorable William Monning
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 623 (Monning) – Water Quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
Notice of OPPOSITION UNLESS AMENDED (*As Amended 8/21/2017*)

Dear Senator Monning,

The League of California Cities® respectfully opposes unless amended your SB 623 (Monning). The program would be funded by imposing a new statewide tax on water, as well as fertilizer and dairy fees, to fund clean water programs.

Maintaining high quality water throughout California is essential and the League has supported previous measures intended to address cleaning up of certain sources of pollution. The League has also undertaken efforts to ensure local governments have the tools they need to address affordability issues, including pursuing a constitutional amendment that would have allowed local agencies to raise water fees and use such fees to reduce charges for lower-income households.

The League acknowledges the problems facing small community water systems and domestic well users, including infrastructure and affordability needs. However, we are opposed to addressing the problem by imposing a tax on all water users. The state's General Fund is a more appropriate source of funding for such a program.

The League regretfully opposes SB 623 unless it is amended to remove the tax on water. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at eevansfudem@cacities.org or (916) 658-8250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Evans-Fudem".

Erin Evans-Fudem
Legislative Representative