

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 12, 2024

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Carnahan,

We write regarding serious health and safety concerns at the Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building, the John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, and the Everett M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, in Chicago, as well as the Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse Building in Rockford, Illinois.

In 2023, the General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) mandated water testing for GSA-owned and -leased spaces to establish more stringent water monitoring, testing, and remediation efforts in federal buildings.

Earlier this year, the Metcalfe Building tested above federal limits for lead, copper, and *Legionella* in several parts of the structure, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (EPA) office and a child care center located in the building reporting the highest levels of contamination. Both the Everett M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse and the John C. Kluczynski Federal Building also were found to have elevated levels of lead, copper, and *Legionella*—and reports indicate that this issue has been ongoing for the past year. The Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse Building in Rockford, Illinois, was found to have exceedances of *Legionella*.

Exposure to *Legionella* can cause severe pneumonia, and elevated levels of lead and copper are linked with potential liver and kidney damage, as well as neurological disorders. Studies show that children in particular are impacted by lead—not only do children drink more water per pound of body weight than adults, lower levels of lead cause greater impacts on children than in fully-developed adults, including brain damage, learning disabilities, and other academic and behavioral challenges.

We would like to request an update regarding GSA's efforts to remediate these drinking water concerns, including an update on the extent of the contamination in all three federal buildings. We request a prompt response to the following questions:

1. When do you anticipate remediation to be completed? In the meantime, what steps has GSA taken to protect the health of workers—and children—in the buildings?
2. What accommodations is GSA providing to ensure the safety and health of all employees? Has GSA distributed informational materials to those working in the buildings on how they can avoid exposure to harmful contaminants?
3. How is GSA protecting workers against airborne *Legionella* particles?

4. Does GSA plan to schedule a town hall to address employees' concerns? If so, when?
5. Please provide additional information regarding GSA's efforts to address the concerns of employees who believe long-term exposure to these contaminants may have left them at risk for other health conditions.

We look forward to working with GSA to swiftly resolve these health concerns and ensure safe conditions within Chicago's federal buildings. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

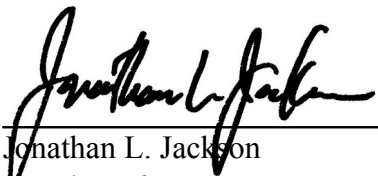
Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



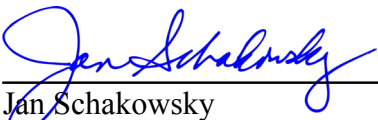
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



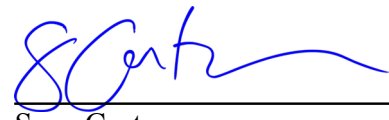
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



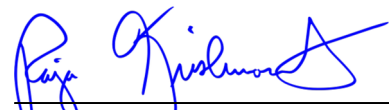
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



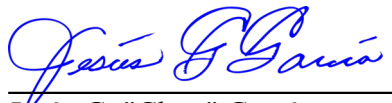
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress