



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

602-926-4481

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Thursday, January 19, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Republican State Lawmakers Support Efforts to Investigate Lead in Drinking Water

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker Pro Tempore T.J. Shope (R-08), Representative David Cook (R-08), and Senator Frank Pratt (R-08) today expressed support for efforts of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to investigate lead levels in drinking water across the state, following a discovery of trace elements of lead in the water at San Manuel High School in Pinal County.

In a precautionary statewide screening program, more than 1,000 schools across the state will be screened for lead levels in drinking water in an effort to identify possible leeching and contamination. According to ADEQ, **“school drinking water may become contaminated as water moves through a school’s plumbing system where lead from materials and fixtures, such as water fountains, faucets, and water heaters, may leach into the water.”**

“We support these precautionary measures being taken by ADEQ to ensure students in Arizona have safe drinking water across the state,” said Shope. **“All residents of Arizona deserve safe drinking water, but especially the students at our schools.”**

“I fully support the efforts ADEQ will be taking in using all scientific and technical means necessary to conduct the Lead Water Screening Program in our public schools’ drinking water. It is important that we keep the community and the students’ best interests at hand as we move forward in protecting public health in Arizona.” says Pratt.

“I was alarmed to hear this news, especially happening within my district at San Manuel High School. Regardless of whether the school is in the middle of urban Phoenix or in rural San Manuel, the same standards should be set across the state.” says Cook. **“Action must be taken to ensure our children are safe and protected. I support this investigation and the efforts of the ADEQ to make certain our water is free of contamination.”**

ADEQ will conduct a six-month rapid screening program which will test 14,000 drinking water samples and 7,000 school buildings statewide.

More information can be found at <http://azdeq.gov/LeadScreeningProg>

###

CONTACT:

Matthew Specht

Director of Communications

Arizona House of Representatives

mspecht@azleg.gov

602-926-5518 (office)