

September 13, 2016

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned community, environmental, social justice, faith, labor, and public health groups, along with our millions of members and supporters, we urge Congress to deliver much needed federal aid to the community of Flint, Michigan in response to the devastating lead contamination its citizens continue to suffer.

Thousands of people in Flint have been exposed to dangerous levels of lead in their entire water system due to gross failures and incompetence, adversely impacting the whole of the city's water supply. Congress needs to move expeditiously to help solve the environmental and public health disaster that mismanagement and aging infrastructure created that appears beyond the state's ability to handle. Furthermore, it should act immediately to provide federal aid to the community to help minimize the impact of lead and other health threats to Flint's citizens.

Additionally, investing in our water infrastructure is critical to solving the problems in Flint and preventing another environmental disaster. Congress should substantially bolster national infrastructure funds like the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The DWSRF provides loans and other financial assistance to water systems to improve their drinking water infrastructure while the CWSRF lends financial support for water quality infrastructure projects and can help improve source water protection.

With the Senate poised to pass these important relief measures as part of S. 2848, the Water Resources and Development Act of 2016, the House must respond in kind by passing legislation to bolster the Clean and Drinking Water SRFs and provide direct financial aid to Flint. While there have been several bills filed, including H.R. 4479, the Families of Flint Act, as well as many amendments made to House Appropriations bills, the House has yet to act in a significant way to deliver the level of federal aid necessitated by this public health crisis.

No amount of lead exposure is safe! The people of Flint are still suffering the physical, emotional, and financial toll of this disaster. What happened in Flint must not happen again **anywhere**. Congress should immediately implement solutions to aid Flint and to protect our nation's water quality. We urge you to act immediately to move forward with effective relief efforts to help the Flint community begin long-term recovery from this environmental disaster.

Sincerely,

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie
African American Health Alliance
Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Rivers
American Public Health Association
Bad River Watershed Association
BaySail
Black Heritage Society Inc

Black Millennials for Flint
BlueGreen Alliance
Casa de Esperanza
Clean Water Action
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Based Organization Partners
Congregation of St. Joseph
Delta Institute
Earthjustice
Environment America
Environment Michigan
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Franciscan Action Network
Freshwater for Life Action Coalition
Freshwater Future
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative
Genesee County Chapter of the National Organization for Women
GreenFaith
GreenLatinos
Hazon
Headwaters Chapter, Izaak Walton League
Heart of the Lakes
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hoosier Environmental Council
Huron River Watershed Council
Land Trust Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens
League of Women Voters of the United States
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan Chapter of the National Organization for Women
Michigan / Indiana Region Women's Missionary Society
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Abounds
Ohio Environmental Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Prairie Rivers Network
Presente.org
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Safer Chemicals Healthy Families
Save The River
Sierra Club
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Trinity Health
United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters
United Steelworkers
Utility Workers Union of America
WasteWater Education 501c3
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
YOUR Center