

September 8, 2016

Dear Senator,

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 reauthorize and 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. These programs need increased funding and not at the expense of other important environmental, public health, and job-creating programs.

At present, the best and most viable legislative proposal to respond to the disaster in Flint is S. 2848, the Senate Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA). This bipartisan bill passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in April and carries policy provisions to direct \$100 million towards Flint's lead drinking water contamination disaster. In addition to directly funding Flint relief, the Senate WRDA establishes school and childcare lead testing programs, and appropriates \$10 million for the childhood lead poisoning prevention program. Our groups urge you to move these key provisions to the floor for consideration as soon as the Senate returns from summer recess.

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  
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