



November 28, 2016

Dear Senator/Representative,

As Congress negotiates a final Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA), the undersigned community, social justice, faith, labor, public health, and environmental groups urge that the final bill provide mandatory funding to help Flint, Michigan and other communities impacted by lead contamination of their drinking water.

It is imperative that Congress pass a final WRDA bill in the lame duck that provides guaranteed aid for Flint. The people of Flint need federal relief to help them rebuild and recover from the public health crisis created by lead contamination of their drinking water – a disaster that began over two years ago and continues to unfold. The Senate bill, S. 2848, guarantees \$100 million to communities where an emergency declaration has been issued due to lead contamination of a municipal drinking water supply (Title VII, Subtitle D). H.R. 5303 authorizes up to \$170 million in aid for Flint. As the House and Senate reconcile the WRDA bills, we strongly urge the Congress to include mandatory emergency drinking water funding for Flint at levels that are no less than in S. 2848, as well as the resources the Senate bill provides to help address the public health needs stemming from lead exposure and spur additional low-interest financing for water infrastructure projects nationwide.

In addition to ensuring Flint receive this dedicated federal aid, our groups strongly recommend that Congress incorporate Title VII of S. 2848 into the final legislation. At a time when much of our nation's infrastructure is at a breaking point, bolstering our national infrastructure funds is more critical than ever.

Title VII includes funding for new grant programs to help reduce lead in drinking water systems nationwide, improve drinking water infrastructure in rural communities, and enhance investments in innovative clean water technologies. The title expands the allowable uses for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds Act to help reduce lead levels in drinking water by protecting drinking water at the source, and authorizes \$1.8 billion to do so. It also authorizes \$300 million over the next 5 years to establish a new grant program to help communities replace lead service lines from homes, with a specific priority on small and disadvantaged communities, schools and daycare centers, and an additional \$100 million for testing specifically in schools and daycare centers. The title also bolsters local planning, corrosion control, and consumer notification and education on how to reduce exposure to lead from drinking water. To prevent future Flints, our groups urge Congress to substantially invest in our nation's

water infrastructure and include these common-sense investments in the final WRDA bill.

Although the crisis in Flint began over two years ago, the community has yet to receive appropriate federal relief. Our groups urge the passage of a final water resources bill that provides robust guaranteed federal aid for Flint and includes the common-sense provisions in Title VII of S. 2848. The people of Flint have already waited too long – Congress must provide effective relief to help the community begin long-term recovery from this environmental and public health disaster.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Michigan  
African American Health Alliance  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Rivers  
Arkansas Public Policy Panel  
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization  
Audubon Great Lakes  
Bad River Watershed Association  
BaySail  
Big Creek Connects  
Black Millennials for Flint  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Breast Cancer Fund  
Clean and Healthy New York  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Based Organization Partners  
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice  
Cool Learning Experience of First Baptist Church, Waukegan  
Earth Conservation Corps  
Earthjustice  
East Michigan Environmental Action  
Ecology Center  
Environment America  
Environment Georgia  
Environment Massachusetts  
Environment New Jersey  
Environment Texas  
Environment Washington  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
For Love of Water (FLOW)

Franciscan Action Network  
Freshwater Future  
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative  
Great Lakes Committee – Izaak Walton League  
GreenFaith  
Greenpeace  
Hazon  
Headwaters Chapter – Izaak Walton League  
Healthy Legacy – Minnesota  
Hispanic Federation  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters – USA, JPIC  
Huron River Watershed Council  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
John F. Kennedy University Museum Studies Program  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Land Trust Alliance  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
League of Women Voters  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Maryland Public Interest Research Group  
Michigan Audubon  
Michigan Environmental Council  
Michigan United  
Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy  
Midwest Environmental Advocates  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Minnesota Division – Izaak Walton League of America  
NAACP Flint Branch  
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives  
National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nature Abounds  
New Image Life Skills Academy Inc.  
New York Division – Izaak Walton League  
North End Woodward Community Coalition  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Prairie Rivers Network  
Principia LLC  
Project Flint  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition

Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes  
River Network  
Safer Chemicals Healthy Families  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Save The River / Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper  
Science and Environmental Health Network  
SER-National Inc.  
Service Employees International Union  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Great Lakes Program  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
St. Louis River Alliance  
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice  
Tennessee Clean Water Network  
The Nature Conservancy  
Thursday Network  
Trust for America's Health  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union  
Utility Workers Union of America  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
WaterLegacy  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
Wisconsin Division – Izaak Walton League  
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters  
Women for a Healthy Environment  
Women's Voices for the Earth  
YOUR Center