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April 25, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Trump,

We write today to inquire into the current status of your Administration's efforts to address the crisis in Flint, Michigan. As you may know, today marks the three-year anniversary of the day contaminated water from the Flint River began flowing into the city. Today, some three years after this manufactured crisis first began, the residents of Flint, Michigan, still do not have access to clean drinking water.

The decision to switch Flint's water supply was made by state-appointed emergency managers to cut costs. Despite the fact that the Flint River had previously been deemed poor quality because of its corrosiveness, state officials pushed ahead. This decision exposed over 100,000 residents to high levels of lead and fecal coliform bacteria in the drinking water. One study found that the number of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood system nearly doubled after the water supply switch. Those children may suffer from the effects of lead poisoning for years to come, including health complications and learning disabilities. At the time of this writing, Flint residents are still advised to properly filter their water. Many residents rely on bottled water because they simply do not trust that even filtered water is safe enough for cooking or bathing.

As a result of the Flint Water Crisis, President Obama issued an emergency declaration on January 16, 2016, and announced that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would serve as the lead federal agency for the crisis in order to ensure that any and all federal efforts were coordinated among the following agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education and others. Each of these agencies continue to play a key role in assisting the city of Flint as it works to assist affected residents and businesses, and carryout the critical mission of updating the cities aging infrastructure. While we were pleased to see that EPA recently awarded Flint \$100 million for infrastructure upgrades, more must be done to ensure that Flint has the long-term capacity necessary to recover from this crisis.



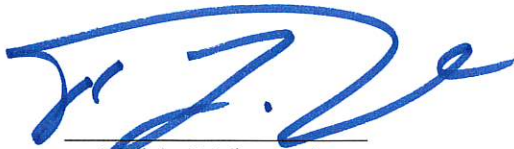
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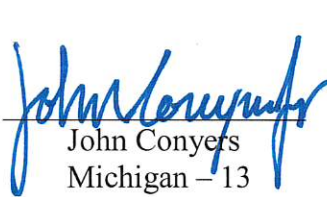
In light of proposed budget cuts to several of the agencies that play a critical role in responding to the Flint Water Crisis, we have serious concerns about your Administration's intentions to continue supporting this effort. Accordingly, we request an interagency briefing to provide an update on your long-term plans to assist the residents of Flint and ensure this tragedy is not repeated in other cities around the country.

This needless crisis must not be taken out of context. Flint, Michigan is a majority-black city where nearly half of the residents live below the poverty line and the median household income is \$24,862. Studies have shown that poor and minority communities are disproportionately impacted by hazardous waste facilities and environmental degradation. In fact, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission attributed the Flint water crisis to "structural and systemic discrimination and racism." In 2017, one of the richest nations in the free world should be able to guarantee clean drinking water to all Americans, no matter their race, income, or zip code. As leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), we have a long history of fighting for environmental justice for all Americans. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Cedric Richmond
Chair, CBC



John Conyers
Michigan - 13



Brenda Lawrence
Michigan - 14