

Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Monday, April 16, 2018

Dear Governor Snyder:

We the undersigned mayors of Michigan municipalities affirm our support for Flint Mayor Weaver and her request that state resources continue to be provided in Flint for the duration of lead service line replacement.

As the remaining 12,000 lead pipes are replaced, dislodged debris will likely cause dangerous lead-level spikes in nearby homes. Lead exposure is bio-accumulative, and Flint residents have already been exposed to alarmingly dangerous levels. Further exposure, even at relatively low levels, could have compounding, devastating effects—especially for expectant mothers and children. The EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero for these and other reasons.

But the water crisis in Flint goes beyond toxic lead levels. It is a crisis of broken public trust in state government. The State has yet to fully grapple with the psychological and social trauma they have inflicted upon Flint residents. The State claims its science demonstrates that the city's water is safe for consumption, but the same claims were made in the early days of the crisis when tens of thousands were exposed, fertility rates dropped, fetal deaths jumped, and many succumbed to illness or died. Trust has not been restored in Flint.

As federal and state programs and funding have receded, local municipalities have been saddled with significant financial and logistical burdens related to upgrading and replacing broadband, transportation, and water infrastructure. As local leaders, we need to know our residents can count on the State to support our communities, carry out their commitments, and foster trust through transparency. We believe the State's announcement to cease bottled water distribution to Flint residents sabotages what little sense of safety and security many of them have. We urge the Governor to reconsider.

Sincerely,

Mayor Byron Nolin, Inkster
Mayor Bill Wild, Westland
Mayor Randy Walker, Garden City
Mayor Leroy Burcroff, Romulus
Mayor Karen Majewski, Hamtramck