

Honorable Rick Snyder, Governor
State of Michigan

Dear Gov. Snyder,

I appreciate your willingness to keep an open dialogue as it pertains to the Flint water crisis.

Over the course of this tragedy, I have seen good and poor responses. I have seen prompt and slow responses. I have seen responses that bring the community together and some that divide it.

I am writing to you concerning the decision to discontinue the state's water credits for the city of Flint. I believe this decision could consequently and unintentionally bring more harm to the current predicament.

For almost three years now, my community has endured a traumatic disruption of their daily lives, and unfortunately, they have not felt fully supported or heard by the state throughout this time. Any effort on behalf of the state to communicate with the city has been ineffective and has resulted in a further distrust of government and an even bigger distrust of the science that government officials are referencing.

To overcome the distrust throughout the Flint community, I am requesting and encouraging you to allocate resources to address the psychological trauma facing the community at large. Necessary resources must be committed to that effort in order to move forward and make Flint residents whole again.

While we have made some progress in addressing the quality of the water, we continue to have problems with sufficient, effective and consistent flow of water throughout the system, and residents are still being advised not to drink the water unless it has been properly filtered. Given the circumstances, we should not be withdrawing critical financial help from Flint residents. This only compounds the distrust and turmoil plaguing my community. Without the community trust, residents will be reluctant to support increased use of the system. The lack of water flow through the system could lead to additional health problems and potential crises in the future.

I urge you to maintain the Flint water credits until we can effectively address inconsistencies in messaging. Let's work together on promoting a message of trust, transparency and healing. My office and I are more than willing to assist your office in any way we can to galvanize a long overdue healing process for the residents of Flint.

For the Love of the Community,

Sheldon A. Neeley
State Representative
34th District - Flint