

December 9, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate:

We write to you today with the utmost urgency to respectfully ask you to vote in favor of both the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) (S.612) and the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act for 2017 (CR) (H.R. 2028). As you know, collectively, these two pieces of legislation represent the best hope for providing critical federal funding to help fix the Flint community's damaged water infrastructure and provide important public health funding to track the vulnerable population of children who were exposed to lead through no fault of their own. Both of these bills passed the House of Representatives yesterday with overwhelming majority support, and in order for Flint to receive the funding they desperately need, it is critical that neither of these bills fall victim to a Senate filibuster. The residents of Flint need your support now more than ever, but most importantly, they need your vote in favor of WRDA and the CR.

Drinking water is a basic human right that most people in America take for granted. Not so for the residents of Flint, MI. They pay among the highest rates in the world, for water that is not currently suitable for drinking, and their vital water infrastructure has been damaged to a point where they cannot afford to restore it without outside help. It is now acknowledged – as identified in the U.S EPA Inspector General's report on the matter - that some of this damage occurred because the EPA knew about a lack of corrosion control, and failed to promptly act.

When natural disaster or acts of terrorism strike, our nation mobilizes and acts swiftly to help those in need. Yet, for the man-made disaster in Flint, attributable to a failure of government at all levels, Congress has yet to act on behalf of the citizens of Flint to help restore the basic tenets of modern civilization in the city. Our community continues to wait for action by Congress to help restore clean, potable water and reliable water infrastructure. Without such action, the impacts of this disaster will linger for decades, if not generations, and some of America's most vulnerable children will suffer the permanent consequences.

We were two actors amongst many, who took seriously the cries of Flint residents, and ultimately helped reveal the scope of the Flint disaster. What is done cannot be undone, but we must take steps to mitigate future harm to the extent that is possible. On behalf of those who we know were harmed; those who continue to struggle; and those who may deal with irreversible consequences for decades to come, we call on you to take action before you leave Washington D.C. for the holidays. Flint residents deserve to spend this holiday season knowing that their Congress chose to do the right thing and pass legislation to help heal their community.

On behalf of the residents of Flint, we call on you to vote in favor of both the legislation to authorize funding for Flint (S.612) and the legislation to provide the critical funding (H.R.2028) to assist Flint families as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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