

[Laura Sullivan](#)

[January 11](#) ·

Dear friends,

Yesterday I attended a data summit, hosted by the US EPA. The purpose of the summit was to review Flint water and infrastructure data collected since the last summit in August. The meeting was closed to the public, and requests to provide live stream access were denied because, according to Mark Durno, EPA liaison to Flint, scientists had to be free to discuss their data.

I took copious notes and will post them later, but suffice it to say that there's nothing to suggest that the quality of water in Flint has improved consistently, there is evidence that lead levels are still spiking, and EPA/MDEQ data show that the amount of Chlorine (which is necessary to disinfect water) is still too low in some areas. Dr. Marc Edwards decided to use some of his presentation time to discredit the work of Wayne State, UM Ann Arbor, MSU, Kettering, and Henry Ford Hospital, suggesting that we have encouraged residents to discontinue using filters for lead. In fact, these experts from Michigan universities and hospitals continue to emphasize that the filters are necessary for removing lead. We note that in parts of the city where disinfection is inadequate, residents should flush water through their filters and in some cases boil water to remove bacteria that has been detected in the water, and bacteria that is growing in water filters.

I'd like to say that tonight's townhall, orchestrated to deliver a summary of yesterday's EPA meeting, has not been choreographed. But it has. I'd like to hope that Dr. Edwards won't use his platform to discredit someone he doesn't agree with, but he might. I'd like you, friends who know I've been in this fight for 2+ year, without any request for compensation or title, to listen to the sad, overwhelmed, frustrated voices of Flint residents tonight. I'm one of them. Who knows why the state and Marc Edwards seek to proclaim that Flint is in no worse a situation than other cities. Please know that they are wrong.

As Rachel Maddow says (someone who helped bring this problem to your attention)...
Watch this space.

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[Bennett Collins](#) Can i share this?

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[Laura Sullivan](#) Yes, Bennett! Around the world!

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