

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

We write to show our support for the announcement of criminal investigations related to the Flint water crisis and to urge a thorough investigation at the federal level. We were pleased to hear that federal prosecutors are working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division and other agencies to review possible criminal violations. This is a catastrophe that deserves the full attention of the federal government, and we urge a thorough review by your Department and cooperating agencies.

Specifically, we ask that you review multiple reports alleging that state officials knew about possible toxicity before they publicly acknowledged the problem. We are concerned that critical facts may have been deliberately covered up to the severe detriment of the citizens of Flint. For more than a year, state officials assured city residents that their water was safe—while multiple tests, independent reports, and questions about water treatment processes indicated otherwise. In particular, we are concerned that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality revised a city report by excluding two water samples that were high in lead in August of 2015. The dropping of these samples allowed the city to meet the federal standard for lead content in drinking water, which it would have otherwise exceeded.

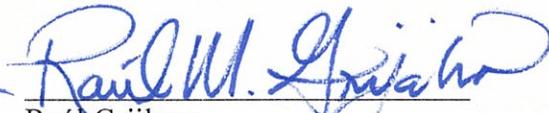
Neglecting to act immediately left Flint residents exposed to a deadly neurotoxin. The dangers of lead poisoning are severe, affecting the brain and central nervous system. Research shows that lead poisoning leads to decreased IQ, intellectual disabilities, and behavioral issues. This translates into barriers to academic success and employment, and there is even evidence that lead poisoning is linked to criminal activity. The impacts of lead poisoning are irreversible. According to an expert in lead corrosion at Virginia Tech, roughly one in six Flint homes has lead levels above the EPA's threshold, and all of Flint's 8,657 children under the age of six should be considered exposed, according to a recent citywide public health directive. Given the grave nature of this situation, we believe your investigation into whether or not criminal charges are warranted is necessary.

We understand that Michigan's Attorney General is investigating these matters—but given the potential liability of state officials, we believe that a comprehensive and impartial investigation at the federal level is necessary. Therefore, we ask that your investigation examine all of the facts and charges potentially available so that justice is served for the residents of Flint.

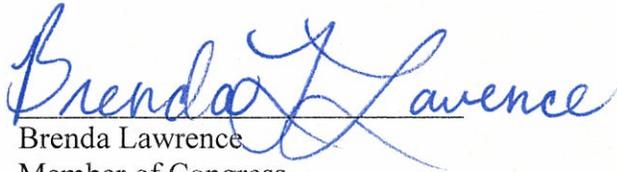
Sincerely,



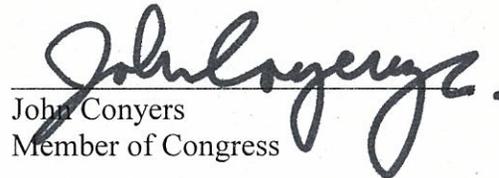
Keith Ellison  
Co-Chair  
Congressional Progressive Caucus



Raúl Grijalva  
Co-Chair  
Congressional Progressive Caucus



Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress



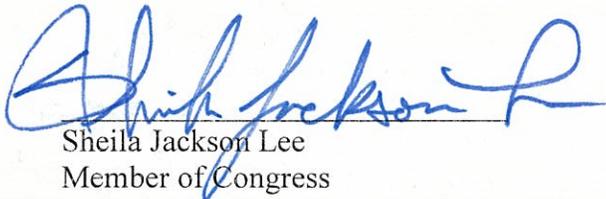
John Conyers  
Member of Congress



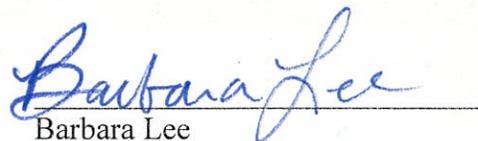
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
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Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

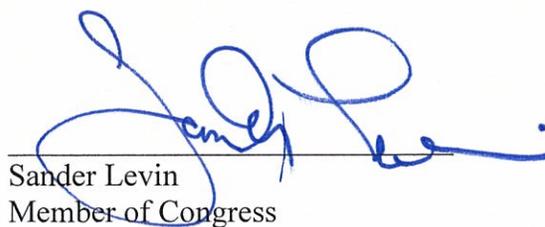


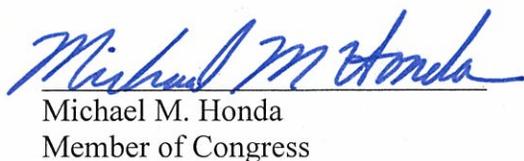
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



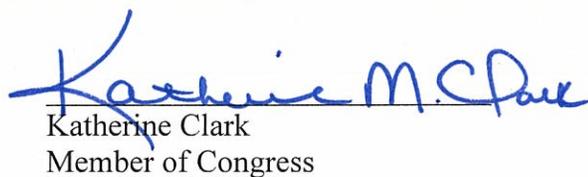
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

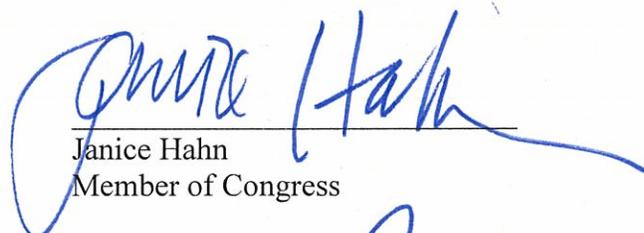
  
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

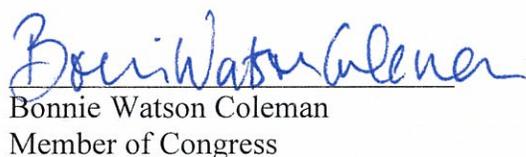
  
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

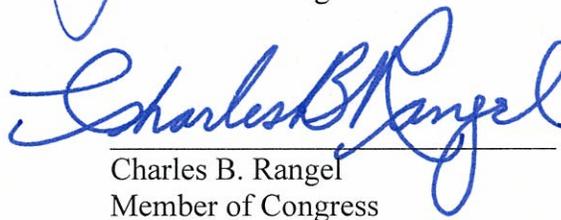
  
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Luis Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

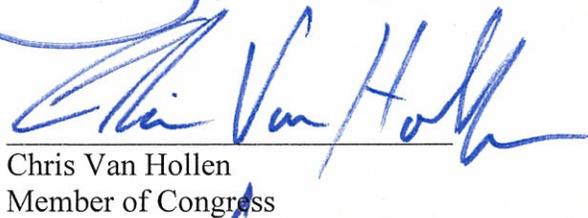
  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

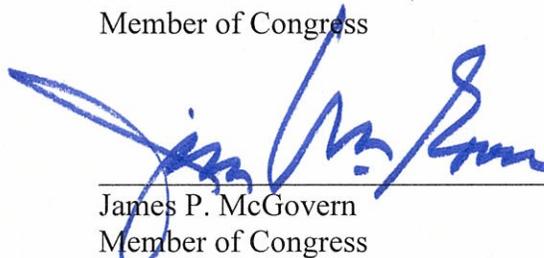
  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress

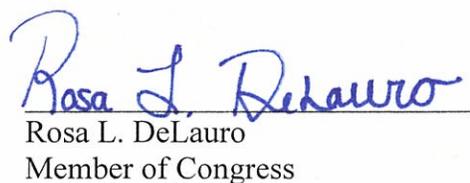
  
Emanuel Cleaver  
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Mark Takano  
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Chris Van Hollen  
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Louise M. Slaughter  
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*Andre Carson*

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*Maxine Waters*

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