

Dear Senator/Representative,

As Congress negotiates a final Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA), the undersigned community, social justice, faith, labor, public health, and environmental groups urge that the final bill provide mandatory funding to help Flint, Michigan and other communities impacted by lead contamination of their drinking water.

It is imperative that Congress pass a final WRDA bill in the lame duck that provides guaranteed aid for Flint. The people of Flint need federal relief to help them rebuild and recover from the public health crisis created by lead contamination of their drinking water – a disaster that began over two years ago and continues to unfold. The Senate bill, S. 2848, guarantees \$100 million to communities where an emergency declaration has been issued due to lead contamination of a municipal drinking water supply (Title VII, Subtitle D). H.R. 5303 authorizes up to \$170 million in aid for Flint. As the House and Senate reconcile the WRDA bills, we strongly urge the Congress to include mandatory emergency drinking water funding for Flint at levels that are no less than in S. 2848, as well as the resources the Senate bill provides to help address the public health needs stemming from lead exposure and spur additional low-interest financing for water infrastructure projects nationwide.

In addition to ensuring Flint receive this dedicated federal aid, our groups strongly recommend that Congress incorporate Title VII of S. 2848 into the final legislation. At a time when much of our nation's infrastructure is at a breaking point, bolstering our national infrastructure funds is more critical than ever.

Title VII includes funding for new grant programs to help reduce lead in drinking water systems nationwide, improve drinking water infrastructure in rural communities, and enhance investments in innovative clean water technologies. The title expands the allowable uses for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds Act to help reduce lead levels in drinking water by protecting drinking water at the source, and authorizes \$1.8 billion to do so. It also authorizes \$300 million over the next 5 years to establish a new grant program to help communities replace lead service lines from homes, with a specific priority on small and disadvantaged communities, schools and daycare centers, and an additional \$100 million for testing specifically in schools and daycare centers. The title also bolsters local planning, corrosion control, and consumer notification and education on how to reduce exposure to lead from drinking water. To prevent future Flints, our groups urge Congress to substantially invest in our nation's water infrastructure and include these common-sense investments in the final WRDA bill.

Although the crisis in Flint began over two years ago, the community has yet to receive appropriate federal relief. Our groups urge the passage of a final water resources bill that provides robust guaranteed federal aid for Flint and includes the common-sense provisions in Title VII of S. 2848. The people of Flint have already waited too long – Congress must provide effective relief to help the community begin long-term recovery from this environmental and public health disaster.

Sincerely,

Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Rivers
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Audubon Great Lakes
BaySail
Black Millennials for Flint
BlueGreen Alliance
Big Creek Connects
Breast Cancer Fund
Clean and Healthy New York
Clean Water Action
Community Based Organization Partners
Cool Learning Experience of First Baptist Church, Waukegan
Earthjustice
Ecology Center
Environment America
Environment Georgia
Environment Massachusetts
Environment New Jersey
Environment Texas
Environment Washington
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative
Great Lakes Committee – Izaak Walton League
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Franciscan Action Network
Freshwater Future
Headwaters Chapter – Izaak Walton League
Healthy Legacy – Minnesota
Hispanic Federation
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters – USA, JPIC
Huron River Watershed Council
Land Trust Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters
Learning Disabilities Association of America
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Maryland Public Interest Research Group
Michigan Audubon
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Milwaukee Riverkeeper

National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Abounds
New Image Life Skills Academy Inc.
New York Division – Izaak Walton League
North End Woodward Community Coalition
Ohio Environmental Council
Oregon Environmental Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Prairie Rivers Network
Project Flint
River Network
Safer Chemicals Healthy Families
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Save The River / Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper
Science and Environmental Health Network
Sierra Club
St. Louis River Alliance
Thursday Network
United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
Women for a Healthy Environment
Women's Voices for the Earth