

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, but does not guarantee that the money will ultimately be allocated. We ask that Congress provide as much disaster aid as possible, up to the \$170 million amount authorized by H.R. 5303, and ensure that the funds are paid for and guaranteed as in S. 2848.

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 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 provides \$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 make common-sense investments in a 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,

American Rivers
BlueGreen Alliance

Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council