

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

BUDGET

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

March 7, 2016

Lieutenant General David Halverson
Assistant Chief of Staff
Department of the Army
Installation Management
600 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Lieutenant General Halverson:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents, Gene Franks and Roger Heidenreich, co-founders of Citizens for Practical Water Solutions in Merrimac, Wisconsin. Recent reports concerning the high levels of lead found in the water supply serving residents in Flint, Michigan have increased concerns of residents in Merrimac regarding the safety of their residential well water.

As you may be aware, Merrimac borders the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, where the Army has been involved in a long-term cleanup of the property that once housed the world's largest munitions factory during World War II. The former Army facility located in Baraboo, Wisconsin is in the final end stages of demolition and remediation in preparation for the final property transfers of land to occur. It is a process that I have been personally involved in for over a decade, both as a US Congresswoman and now US Senator. As part of this process, the Army has proposed the construction of a municipal drinking water system to provide a safe water alternative to residents who currently are reliant on their residential wells as their only water source. My understanding is that the Merrimac Sanitary District and residents are pleased with this solution but are concerned that government delays will prolong the construction of the water system and ultimate delivery of a water source that residents can feel confident carries no risk to their health and well-being.

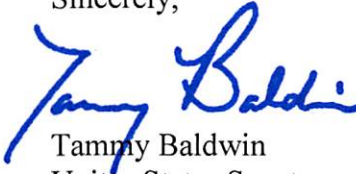
Although I have been informed that there has been a regular schedule of testing that the Army has diligently undertaken to make sure that the area well water meets environmental standards for use as a potable source, residents continue to feel ill-at-ease wondering if contaminants from plumes on the former Badger Army Ammunition property have compromised their water supply. As you might imagine, reports from Flint Michigan, particularly associated with the government's apparent lack of transparency and accountability in protecting the health of its citizens, has only heightened these concerns.

Attached is a copy of the letter that I received from Citizens for Practical Water Solutions which outlines their concerns. Since the receipt of this letter, my office has spoken with Mr. Franks assuring him that as their US Senator I take their concerns very seriously. As a result of that conversation, I respectfully request that construction of the proposed water facility proceed in a timely manner, in accordance with the applicable laws, policies and protocols your office must

adhere to in order to ensure that the facility meets all environmental and safety standards for the delivery of potable water to residents of Merrimac, Wisconsin. Furthermore, I ask that your office keep me apprised of the progress of this project and notify my office if I may be of assistance to you in resolving any outstanding issues that may threaten to delay the implementation of this project.

If you have further questions or concerns regarding my request, please direct your queries to Todd Crouch, my Director of State Operations in my Madison, Wisconsin office. He may be reached by mail at 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison WI 53703, by telephone at 608.264.5338 or by email at todd_crouch@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful and deliberate actions associated with my constituents concerns and my request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

STB/tac

Encl.: CPWS correspondence

Cc: Gene Franks & Roger Heidenreich, Citizens for Practical Water Solutions
Robert (Mike) Sitton, Army Installation Director, BAAP

Citizens for Practical Water Solutions
S8310 Inspiration Drive
Merrimac, WI 53561
Tel: 608 643 7984 E-mail geja@merr.com

JAN 30 2016

January 22, 2016

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
30 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Badger Unsafe Water

Dear Senator Baldwin:

The recent human tragedy concerning unsafe amounts of lead in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan, prompts this letter to you today. Clearly, the tragedy in Flint has been exacerbated by the slow response of governmental agencies to solve their problems. We do not want the same problems to occur here in Wisconsin at the former Badger Ammunition Plant.

There have been comprehensive discussions on having safe drinking water for the properties that are affected by contamination at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. The end result was pointed out in the *Sauk Prairie Eagle* on November 22, 2015, in an article by Kathy Matthews-Risley where she quoted state epidemiologist, Dr. Henry Anderson, who said "Given the concerns and uncertainties, state health officials believe the best course of action is to keep people from using water from residential wells near Badger."

The Army has proposed spending about \$40 million to build a municipal drinking water system so that residents near Badger will not have to use their residential wells. We are pleased with this solution but are concerned as to how long it will take to implement a safe water system.

A Merrimac Sanitary District was formed on May 27, 2015. The Army we understand won't be able to begin and move forward until at least July, 2016. After that, there will be an environmental assessment, applications to the DNR, Public Hearings, applications to the Public Service Commission, and more Public Hearings, etc. It will take perhaps five years while each day we wonder if our well water is safe. What concerns us is that we somehow need to speed up the process and get the Army moving forward. We need prodding by our elected officials to speed up this process. Without your help this program may grind to a halt with potentially disastrous, Flint-like consequences.

As the elected representatives of the citizens living in the contaminated area, please go on record now that you support the safe town water and look into what can be done to speed up the application process. The only way we can know for sure that we have safe water is to have a water supply from a new uncontaminated source. Thank you for your support.



Roger Heidenreich Co-founder CPWS



Gene Franks Co-founder CPWS

cc: Mike Sitton, U.S. Army, Tim McCumber, Town of Merrimac
Inc: Article New York Times, January 19, 2016

Gov. Rick Snyder of Michigan Apologizes in Flint Water Crisis

By JULIE BOSMAN and MITCH SMITH JAN. 19, 2016, New York Times

Stephanie Webber and her father, Michael, at home in Flint, Mich., watching Gov. Rick Snyder's State of the State address. Credit Brittany Greeson for The New York Times

LANSING, Mich. — Gov. Rick Snyder of Michigan issued a sweeping apology on Tuesday to the residents of Flint for a contaminated water supply. He pledged to promptly release his emails about the issue, and laid out more specifics than had previously been known about the state's handling of the matter.

"I'm sorry, and I will fix it," Mr. Snyder, a Republican, said in a State of the State address in which he took the unusual step of focusing on a painful issue that has consumed the state in recent weeks and has drawn condemnation from national politicians. "No citizen of this great state should endure this kind of catastrophe. Government failed you — federal, state and local leaders — by breaking the trust you place in us."

Mr. Snyder, who has long boasted of advocating pragmatic solutions over casting blame, was uncharacteristically blunt, contrite and emphatic. "I'm sorry most of all that I let you down," he said. "You deserve better. You deserve accountability. You deserve to know that the buck stops here with me. Most of all, you deserve to know the truth, and I have a responsibility to tell the truth."

The scandal over the water in Flint has engulfed Mr. Snyder in the biggest crisis of his tenure and reverberated far beyond the state's borders. In the last few days, it has drawn attention in the White House and prompted accusations that the state had ignored a health risk in a largely black city. Flint's plight also emerged as an issue in Sunday's Democratic presidential debate.

The crisis has spawned multiple investigations, and has set local and state officials scrambling to find a remedy for the problem. Flint residents have been put at risk because of the high levels of lead leaching from water pipes, caused by a switch to less expensive water from the Flint River.

Mr. Snyder cited repeated missteps by members of his administration, including misunderstanding regulations and failing to immediately identify the presence of lead in Flint's drinking water. He also said that he was told the lead problem was limited to one household, and that worries about lead were raised as long ago as last February. He pointedly thanked the whistle-blowers who detected the lead levels in the water and in children's blood, prompting a flurry of action in recent weeks.

He promised to seek \$28 million in state funds for Flint residents to provide more bottled water, health care for children in the city, and improvements to the city's troubled infrastructure.

"To the families in Flint, it is my responsibility, my commitment to deliver," Mr. Snyder said. "I give you my commitment that Michigan will not let you down."

Hours before Mr. Snyder spoke, the Environmental Protection Agency said the state had not responded quickly enough to the water emergency. "What happened in Flint should not have happened," the agency said in a statement.

President Obama, who last weekend signed an emergency declaration that made \$5 million in federal assistance available, met with the mayor of Flint, Karen Weaver, in Washington.

"The president heard firsthand how the residents of Flint are dealing with the ongoing public health crisis and the challenges that still exist for the city, its residents and the business community," according to a statement describing the meeting.

Much of the criticism has been aimed at Mr. Snyder. A former accountant who had not sought public office until he was elected in 2010, he had cultivated a reputation as an able administrator who would bring a businessman's eye to state and local government.

But two forays into local government blew up in recent weeks as serious questions were raised about decisions made by emergency managers appointed by him in Flint and in Detroit, where the public schools are deteriorating physically and are close to insolvency. Mr. Snyder addressed both in his speech, as well as concerns about the state's aging infrastructure. In both cases, his administration's competence and compassion were questioned, and critics noted that both cities were predominately black.

The Detroit Free Press demanding full accountability, starting with the governor's emails, which under state law were protected from public scrutiny. On Monday, protesters marched outside Mr. Snyder's apartment building in Ann Arbor, demanding his arrest. As he prepared to deliver his address, demonstrators waited outside the Capitol, waving signs calling for justice.

"What took the governor so long to do something about this?" asked Dan Reyes, 46, an autoworker and Flint resident who brought bottles full of the city's tap water to offer to legislators. "The message is clear to us: Flint is a predominantly minority, poor community. In Flint, you don't matter to Snyder's brand of politician."

Over and over on Tuesday, Mr. Snyder expressed contrition, referring to the matter as a "crisis" and "catastrophe," saying "mistakes" had been made and promising to pray for the people of Flint.

But he also left residents of the city, whose population has dwindled with the departure of the auto industry to fewer than 100,000, with unanswered questions. Why did state officials switch the source of its water from Lake Huron to the Flint River, known to locals as a dumping ground for trash and pollutants? Why did it take months before complaints about the water's odor and rusty color were taken seriously? Who knew about the lead problem, and when? Would it have happened at all in a city populated by affluent white people?

In Michigan, whose state Legislature is controlled by Republicans, members of Mr. Snyder's party have sprung to his defense. Ronna Romney McDaniel, the chairwoman of Michigan's

Republican Party, said she was confident in Mr. Snyder's ability to help fix Flint's water problems.

The Republicans never stop belittling government. Perhaps what they mean is heartless and incompetent government. We now have a perfect...

"He's turned our state around," Ms. McDaniel said. "I think he is the perfect governor to help lead us through this crisis. I know he will be solution-oriented and action-oriented."

But Democrats, furious over the slow response to complaints over Flint water, said the blame fell directly on the governor.

"From the very beginning," Brandon Dillon, the chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, said before Mr. Snyder's address, "his style of governance has been to put the bottom line over what's in the best interest of health and safety."

After the speech, Representative Dan Kildee, a Democrat whose district includes Flint, rejected the idea that \$28 million was enough to fix the Flint water crisis. Exposure to even small amounts of lead is linked to long-term developmental issues and other problems in children.

"That is a fraction of the money city residents have paid for poisoned water that they cannot drink," he said in a statement. "Flint deserves an immediate response equal to the gravity of this ongoing public health emergency. A state-appointed emergency financial manager created this problem, and the state must step up and do more to help Flint families and children right now."

Mr. Snyder has tried to stay above the political fray. Running under the slogan "One Tough Nerd," he was elected in the Republican wave that swept Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Gov. Paul LePage of Maine into office. He has spent his brief political career promoting "relentless positive action," in his oft-deployed and characteristically cheerful phrase, over partisan politics.

In 2013, he angered many Republicans in Michigan by allowing a Medicaid expansion in his state as part of the Affordable Care Act. Yet he also dismayed Democrats when he signed a bill in 2012 making Michigan a "right to work" state, a measure that diminishes the power of organized labor.

Michigan's governors are subject to term limits, so Mr. Snyder will not be running for re-election in 2018.

Arthur Woodson, a Flint resident who has helped organize and lead protests drawing attention to the city's water situation for more than a year, said he had not voted for Mr. Snyder but had initially been somewhat optimistic about his leadership.

"I thought he was going to get in and be more moderate and work with the people," said Mr. Woodson, who was helping protesters board buses traveling to Lansing on Tuesday. "But it hasn't been that way."