



# Michigan House of Representatives

Anderson House Office Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Bill Schuette  
Attorney General of the State of Michigan  
525 W Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Attorney General Schuette,

On Friday, April 6, Gov. Snyder and his administration abruptly communicated their decision to stop providing free bottled water at Community Water Resource Sites throughout the city of Flint, permanently closing them just two days ago. On Monday, April 9, you were quoted through your spokeswoman as disagreeing with the decision, stating that "bottled water distribution in Flint should continue until lead pipes have been replaced and trust in government has been restored."<sup>1</sup> As Michigan's chief law enforcement official, we urge you to take immediate legal action, utilizing every available remedy, against Gov. Snyder, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and any and all other parties necessary to ensure the continued operation of these essential water points of distribution for the people of Flint.

To justify his decision to close these critical distribution sites, Gov. Snyder cites two years of water sampling results. Unfortunately, numerous samples from homes and schools across Flint continue to show the presence of lead above the federal action level. More importantly, you yourself, in January 2017, rightly noted that Flint residents have every reason to question the accuracy of these tests. You wrote:

The same agency whose employees conspired to defraud the public into believing Flint's water supply was safe and met Safe Drinking Water Act standards mandated by federal law, should not be looked to as experts on interpreting and administering the Safe Drinking Water Act and its Lead and Copper Rule.<sup>2</sup>

We strongly agree with your statement. Any trust that the people of Flint held in this administration was eroded when an emergency manager appointed by Gov. Snyder for years refused to acknowledge that the water residents were expected to use to cook, bathe and drink, was tainted with lead. For the same reasons you state in your January 2017 brief, Flint residents do not trust the Snyder administration's insistence that the water is now safe. Frankly, whether legally obligated to do so or not, the administration must continue to provide safe, bottled drinking water to Flint residents, until such time as the replacement of all lead services lines is complete and confidence is restored.

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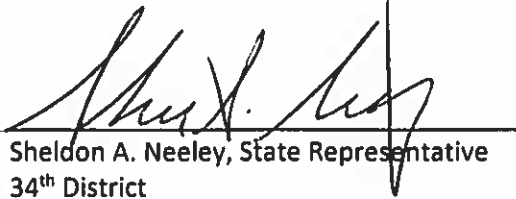
<sup>1</sup> "Attorney General Bill Schuette: Don't cut off free bottled water to Flint." Detroit Free Press, April 9, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> "Schuette at odds with governor, backs Flint water delivery lawsuit." MLive, Jan. 17, 2017.

As elected officials, we are entrusted with an incredible responsibility to serve and protect the people we represent. At a most basic level, this includes ensuring they have the resources they need to survive and live healthy lives. Yet for years, the people of Flint have suffered and been poisoned by the water in their taps, due to the mismanagement, recklessness and gross negligence of the Snyder administration.

On behalf of the people of Flint, we encourage you to do what is both right and absolutely necessary: continue holding those responsible for Flint's crisis accountable. Again, we urge you to act without delay to ensure that every resident of Flint continues to have access to safe drinking water.

For the Love of the Community,



Sheldon A. Neeley, State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> District



Phil Phelps, State Representative  
49<sup>th</sup> District