



The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

May 5, 2016

Dear Mr. President:

Along with our thousands of water quality professionals across the country and around the world, we followed your words spoken in Flint, Michigan yesterday with a high degree of interest. You called for providing residents potentially afflicted with lead contamination in their water to be provided with filters. We are contacting you to advise that the Water Quality Association (WQA) is standing-by and is ready on a moment's notice to act expeditiously to provide certified filters and related technologies, as well as public education.

In the early weeks of the Flint crisis, WQA members provided certified filtration technology to local residents as part of a philanthropic effort, donating over a million dollars' worth of product. WQA professionals partnered with a member company to travel to Flint in an effort to support public education activities about lead contamination and to distribute information about filtration solutions and trusted and reliable sources of information regarding these solutions.

You also talked about this not just being a Flint crisis, but a national crisis. You were correct to point out the unacceptably high levels of lead in townships along the Jersey Shore and in North Carolina's major cities. But there are valid concerns in Ohio, South Carolina and Mississippi as well.

As professionals committed to clean water for all Americans, we have for decades provided filtration and other technologies that have proven effective often in disadvantaged communities. Our technology is proven, trusted and ready to help residents of Flint now. As you highlighted in your speech, addressing the water infrastructure needs in the city is an important step, but is realistically a long-term project. Science has shown filters can remove lead and with proper maintenance can be the immediate solution to provide safe water to residents, while the water system is being repaired.

A critical consideration is that filters and other technology provided to Flint residents be certified by third party accredited laboratories to assure performance to filter lead. Second, installation should be done by properly trained professionals who are equipped and trained to educate residents about how to use and maintain the technology.

We are prepared to offer technical advice on equipment performance because we operate a certified laboratory and to directly participate in community education about filters, other technology, installation and maintenance. Further, we are prepared to work with our member corporations and water quality experts to facilitate your call to provide filters to local residents.

Please have the appropriate member of your staff contact David Loveday, WQA Director of Government Affairs, at dloveday@wqa.org, and Don McGhee, WQA President (2016-2017), at president@wqa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don McGhee".

Don McGhee, President (2016-2017)
Water Quality Association



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