
From: Baird, Richard (GOV)
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 10:42 PM
To: Agen, Jarrod (GOV)
Subject: RE: Flint letter

I meant to eliminate "many" in the first para. Otherwise looks good to me.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

On Dec 28, 2015 10:36 PM, "Agen, Jarrod (GOV)" <AgenJ@michigan.gov> wrote:

10:30 am tomorrow works.

Draft statement below. Language regarding Dan is included, pending our discussion tomorrow.

DRAFT STATEMENT

“When I became aware that the city of Flint’s water showed elevated lead levels and that many the state’s handling of the situation was being questioned, I appointed an independent task force to investigate how the situation evolved and identify missteps and areas for improvement.

“The task force has done an exceptional job and has been relentless in focusing on the facts. It so far has reviewed stacks of documents and interviewed scores of Flint, Genesee County, state and federal officials, and keeping me and my team apprised of its progress.

“Although the task force’s final report is not yet completed, it has made me aware of some interim findings and corrective steps that I have decided to take immediately to restore trust in how the state keeps its citizens safe and informed.

“No matter what the testing requirements were, they were not enough to prevent this situation. Moving forward we will listen intently and be more responsive to community needs.

"I am accepting the resignation of MDEQ Director Dan Wyant, and have made other personnel changes to address problems cited by the task force."

“Changes in leadership and staff are not enough. I understand there can be disagreements within the scientific community. That is why I have directed both the departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services to invite every external scientist who has worked on the Flint water issue to be our partners in helping us improve Flint water. Let’s share research on water and blood lead level testing to arrive at accurate and mutually supported conclusions. Together, we should work to affirm that we’re using the very best testing protocols to ensure Flint residents have safe drinking water and that we’re doing proper monitoring and remediation of health impacts over the short and long term.

“I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this has happened. And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure containing lead lines.

“I’m taking the actions today to ensure a culture of openness and trust. We’ve already allocated \$10 million to test the water, distribute water filters, and help in other ways. Last week, I called Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and we’re going to meet soon to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance.

“These are only initial steps - we fully expect to take more actions following the recommendations of our task force. When it comes to matters of health and quality of life, we’re committed to doing everything we can to protect the well-being of our citizens.”

From: Baird, Richard (GOV)

Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 10:24 PM

To: Snyder, Rick (GOV) PPI

Cc: Clement, Elizabeth (GOV) <clemente@michigan.gov>; Agen, Jarrod (GOV) <AgenJ@michigan.gov>; Scott, Allison (GOV) <scotta12@michigan.gov>

Subject: Re: Flint letter

10:30 good by me.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

On Dec 28, 2015 10:14 PM, "Snyder, Rick (GOV)" <PPI> wrote:

If it works, let's do a call at 10:30 tomorrow. Also, please send me the latest version of my proposed statement.

Thanks

Rick

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 28, 2015, at 8:24 PM, Agen, Jarrod (GOV) <AgenJ@michigan.gov> wrote:

Governor,

Attached is a letter from the Flint Water Task Force which will be formally sent to you tomorrow. The Task Force then plans to release this letter publicly on Wednesday morning.

You will see the letter is harsh against DEQ.

Rich, Redford, Harvey, Meegan, and myself all just gathered on a conference call to discuss our upcoming actions regarding Flint. While we don't think this letter should change any of our actions, we agreed we may need to accelerate some of the structural changes at DEQ.

Our suggestions:

1) Make structural changes at DEQ as early as tomorrow: The recommendations in this letter suggest profound change at DEQ and openly criticize Director Wyant. If this is the path that the Task Force is on, it is best to make changes at DEQ sooner rather than later. That likely means accepting Dan's resignation. It also means moving up the termination of the 3 DEQ personal previously planned for Jan 4 to tomorrow.

2) Still do statement tomorrow from you regarding Flint: This statement will be slightly revised by Meegan to acknowledge we received feedback from the Task Force and reiterate that we created the Task Force with the intent of getting honest independent feedback. More importantly, if we are making changes at DEQ, they can also be announced in the statement.

If you have a moment, it is probably best that Rich & I discuss with you over the phone tomorrow morning. But I wanted to get you some of our thinking tonight.

Let me know if there is a good time to discuss tomorrow.

Thanks

Jarrold

<Snyder Letter EPR v5-Clean.docx>