

To: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ) <PalloneM@michigan.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Need you on this. Probably will help to have copies of whatever we shared and I want to be sure I know what I know. Thanks.

b

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wurfel, Sara (GOV)" <Wurfels@michigan.gov>

To: "Wyant, Dan (DEQ)" <WyantD@michigan.gov>, "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>, "Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)" <WurfelB@michigan.gov>, "Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)" <TommasuloK@michigan.gov>

Subject: FW: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Need to make sure I understand the full background and story on this.

From: Gary Ridley [mailto:GRIDLEY@mlive.com]

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:39 PM

To: Bitely, Andrea (AG) <BitelyA@michigan.gov>; Wurfel, Sara (GOV) <Wurfels@michigan.gov>

Subject: Comment sought on Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

Hi,

I wanted to see if the state had any comment in response to this lawsuit.

Thanks.

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Gary Ridley | The Flint Journal-MLive Media Group | 810-280-9516 | gridley@mlive.com <<mailto:gridley@mlive.com>>

From: Rosemary Jones [mailto:RJones@house.mi.gov]

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:33 PM

To: Rosemary Jones

Subject: Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Oct. 12, 2015

Contact: Rep. Phil Phelps

Phone: (517) 373-7515

Rep. Phelps Files Suit Against State of Michigan, City of Flint
State, city failed to release documents sought in FOIA request

LANSING — State Representative Phil Phelps (D-Flushing) announced earlier today that he is filing suit against the state of Michigan and the city of Flint to force them to release public documents he requested last month under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

“It's an absolute shame that I have to file suit to force our government to comply with the law,” Phelps said. “I was shocked at their response, because prior to receiving the denials, officials from both the city and state had told me that not only did documents exist, but they would be happy to share them with me.”

On Sept. 4 of this year, Phelps requested that the city and state turn over all documents and emails regarding the permit and application process that Flint's emergency manager was required to complete before the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality gave the go ahead to the city to start using the Flint River as its source of drinking water. Late last month, the state and the city both denied Phelps' request, saying that no such documents exist.

In March and April of 2014, officials from both the city and state were also quoted in several articles on Mlive.com, making comments about the permit application process for Flint to switch its source of drinking water from Detroit's system to the Flint River.

“I want to know what these officials knew about the safety and quality of the river water before the switch was made. Judging by their response and recent actions, it almost seems they knew a lot more than they are letting on to,” Phelps said. “Flint residents deserve better than this, they deserve to know the truth about the decisions that were made, and if I have to fight this in court to get the truth, so be it.”

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