

Rich

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 24, 2015, at 7:41 AM, Holland, Meegan (GOV) <[HYPERLINK "mailto:HollandM2@michigan.gov"](mailto:HollandM2@michigan.gov)> wrote:

Colleagues:

Many of us have reached the conclusion that our messaging on the Flint water crisis has room for improvement. We haven't conveyed to citizens the depth of our concern over the situation. I've crafted a statement to be made by the Governor, and would like you to review it.

This statement is meant to manage expectations on the timing of concrete conclusions (the task force report may not come out for another month at least) and to signal that action may come sooner than that (we plan to reach out to Mayor Weaver, for example, and perhaps hold a press conference with her in January announcing some next steps).

Here is the statement:

"I've been briefed on the recent meeting of the task force studying the Flint water situation and I've read the report from the Office of the Auditor General on the processes used by DEQ to monitor Flint water.

"No matter what the testing requirements were, they were not enough to prevent this crisis. I want Michigan to be the state that is known for the safest water in the nation.

"I'd like to thank the task force for keeping me apprised of their continuing investigation. As they uncover more facts, it's clear to me we can do better. The report may take another month or so, but if we need to make changes more

swiftly, I plan to take immediate action.

"The bottom line is we'll take responsibility for our part in Flint's water crisis. I'm committed to partnering with all of the stakeholders who are as concerned about public health as I am. I vow to make sure that Flint citizens will have safe drinking water. And I'm so very sorry that this happened.

"But I know an apology isn't enough. We've already allocated \$10 million to test the water, distribute water filters, and help in other ways. On Thursday, I called Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and we're going to sit down in the next week to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance.

"What happened in Flint is inexcusable. I want to assure residents there that we will work hard to make things right."

Thank you,

Meegan

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