

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 8, 2016

S. Peter Manning
Division Chief
Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division
Department of Attorney General
State of Michigan
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Manning:

I am writing in response to a letter we received from you at 10:01 p.m., on March 4, 2016, declining to make available any of the witnesses that Rep. Brenda Lawrence and I have requested for transcribed interviews about the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and declining to produce any of the documents we have asked these witnesses to provide.

In your letter, you explain that the Michigan Department of Attorney General represents 11 of these witnesses as current or former state employees: Dennis Muchmore, Dick Posthumus, Harvey Hollins, John Walsh, Sara Wurfel, Jim Sygo, Nick Lyon, Dr. Matthew Davis, Dr. Eden Wells, Andy Dillon, and Wayne Workman.

Unfortunately, the reasons you provide for not making these witnesses and their documents available are without merit.

For example, you suggest in your letter that we are insisting that these witnesses travel to Washington, D.C. at their own expense. That is not accurate. When your office raised precisely this concern last week, we offered to accommodate these witnesses by conducting the interviews by telephone. I am attaching the email from our staff that documents our offer.

Your letter also states that our requests "cannot be achieved on such an abbreviated schedule," but it is your actions that have delayed our investigation. You have declined to indicate which of these witnesses is willing to cooperate with our requests, so we have been unable to conduct even one interview to date. Last week, our staff asked your office to indicate which witnesses are not willing to participate in transcribed interviews, but you have not done so, and this refusal has delayed our work.

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As an effort to further accommodate this process, we propose beginning these transcribed interviews—at a location of your choosing—on Friday, March 11, 2016, with Dennis Muchmore, Governor Snyder's former Chief of Staff, and Richard Baird, Governor Snyder's Transformation Manager.

We hope you will recognize the extraordinary lengths to which we are going to accommodate your concerns, and we hope these steps will allow us to complete all of these interviews without further delay.

In order to allow our staff to make travel arrangements, please contact Kapil Longani at (202) 225-5051, by 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, to indicate whether these two witnesses will comply with our request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jason Chaffetz, Chairman

Attachment