

September 25, 2016

Shawn Sanford
Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Detroit Cadillac Place
3054 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 3-600
Detroit, MI 48202

ATTN: Director Agustin V. Arbulu

Regarding: Flint Water Crisis Hearings

Director Arbulu,

I would like to comment on behalf of the Michigan Resources Stewards (<http://www.miresourcestewards.org>) regarding our perspective on improvements to the Department of Environmental Quality that would have increased citizen access to the agency and increased the probability of greater communication and trust. We apologize for missing the last MCRC hearing on the Flint Water Crisis, but hope to help provide further insight on this important environmental justice matter.

The Michigan Resource Stewards is an organization founded by natural resource and environmental professionals who spent years working or volunteering in the public and private sectors managing and protecting our natural resources and environment. The organization continues the fight for protection of our environment and natural resources by the same people who had dedicated their working lives to this noble objective. MRS has earned a strong reputation as an organization that uses sound science in arriving at positions on a wide variety of conservation and environmental issues.

One of the changes the MRS has considered as an improvement to the MDEQ would be the establishment of a commission dedicated to fostering public access to MDEQ decision making and influencing quality management of Michigan's environment. As you may be aware, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources receives oversight and leadership from the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. Amongst other changes to environmental management in Michigan, we see value in the establishment of a viable and sustainable commission on environmental quality and protection. You are keenly aware of the benefit of commissions in fostering public access to government and increasing trust in government.

The Stewards strongly oppose at every turn the politicization of resource management, or decisions based on unscientific principles, and are a respected and outspoken voice on behalf of the long-term use and conservation of Michigan's natural resources and the quality of Michigan's environment. We offer to share our expertise and experience as you investigate the Flint Water Crisis matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory C. Eagle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

Gregory C. Eagle
On Behalf of the Michigan Resource Stewards

Cc: Arminda Koch, President, Michigan Resource Stewards