Date]

The Honorable [official’s full name]

[Address - Find it at www.house.gov or www.senate.gov]

Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear [Senator/Congresswoman/Congressman Person’s Last Name],

As one of the 7,000 members of Alfred Street Baptist Church, I urge you to support comprehensive negotiations on emergency federal disaster funding for Flint, Michigan and other communities nationwide that are struggling with emergency public health threats associated with lead or other toxic contaminants in their public drinking water supplies.

Alfred Street Baptist Church serves as a convener and catalyst of social justice action to advance targeted issues locally, nationally, and abroad that affect the divinity of all humanity. Therefore, I am advocating for the fair treatment of residents, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of water supply policies. Furthermore, I am aware that the Flint water crisis and similar problems disproportionately affect poor residents and people of color. My Christian imperative compels me to address issues that disadvantage those living on the margins of American society.

Through ASBC’s Flint Water Relief Mission, we donated and distributed 20,000 cases of water over several months and provided immediate relief to Flint residents. Our relief volunteers saw firsthand the human destruction and devastation of the Flint community rendered by officials who were responsible for protecting the safety, health, and welfare of residents.

While our relief efforts have been well received, distributing bottled water is unsustainable and inadequate to address the fundamental human rights of Flint and other residents to have safe, clean drinking water. Mission reliefs also do not address the long-term, public health crisis these individuals and families will continue to face after news headlines of this human-made disaster cease. Therefore, our Social Justice Ministry now is mobilizing our congregation to stay attentive to the progress of the Water Resources Development Act, particularly its provisions for Flint and similar communities.

I am pleased that the U.S. House and Senate have included aid for Flint in the WRDA, and I strongly urge you and your colleagues to prioritize passage of this emergency federal disaster funding during this legislative session. Flint cannot wait for the next Congress to act.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Address]

[City, state, zip code]

[Phone number]