

United States Senate

December 14, 2015

Ms. Wendy Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear Ms. Spencer:

I am truly impressed by the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) commitment to public service. Thank you for extending the offer to engage the State of Michigan when we met earlier this year. I would also like to thank you for taking the time to speak with me last week. As we discussed, I would like to formally request assistance from CNCS in order to address the current crisis in the City of Flint Michigan.

As you know, there is a serious drinking water emergency situation in the City of Flint Michigan. Thousands of Flint residents have been exposed to the lead-contaminated water, including children, who are the most vulnerable to the irreversible effects of lead poisoning. The developmental and behavioral problems from lead poisoning will require years of special treatment and wrap-around care for these children. Trust in the Flint water system will take years to amend and require substantial improvements in the water system. Hundreds of miles of waterservice lines, many of which are more than 70 years old and are costly to replace, may still present challenges for lead contamination of drinking water in the future.

CNCS has a well-established presence in the City of Flint. I was pleased to learn that the community has begun engaging CNCS in order to address the issues stemming from the current crisis. AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps teams (NCCC) perform team-based service projects to include direct response and recovery to natural and other disasters. Deploying NCCC teams to the City of Flint will provide much needed resources and manpower to the communities with the most need.

In addition to the deployment of NCCC teams, I would welcome support of the additional resources that we discussed. The assignment of Americorps VISTA members with disaster relief experience would bring needed expertise to the recovery process. Similarly, Americorps members currently serving in Flint should be part of the larger recovery plan. I believe we must leverage all available resources in a thoughtful manner. Please be assured, I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

I appreciate your willingness to assist the City of Flint and look forward to working with you to assist in Flint's recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator