



Natalie E. Tennant

Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

February 11, 2014

Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden:

Thank you for your swift response to my January 17th request for greater transparency regarding the testing and methodology used to determine what levels of MCHM are safe. I appreciate you posting available data online the same day I requested it and working to get additional information out through the West Virginia media.

However, the fact remains, too many West Virginians are still questioning whether their water is really safe. Families have told me they are melting snow to bathe their children. Restaurants are spending money on bottled water that should be going to pay employees or hire new workers.

Therefore, I ask you to work with my office to make appropriate representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available directly to the people of West Virginia to clearly and plainly answer their questions.

My office stands ready to assist you in facilitating the dialogue through any number of options including, but not limited to, an online chat forum, a telephone hotline, or mobile office hours in each of the nine counties impacted. If you believe additional parties are needed to fully answer questions and address concerns the public may bring forward, please tell me who those parties are, and I will work to include them in the conversation.

If the CDC will commit to hold an open and honest conversation with West Virginians, I will make every resource of the Secretary of State's office available to help make it possible.

Enclosed in this letter are the signatures and stories of **1,364** West Virginians who signed a petition through the Secretary of State's Office demanding answers. I ask you to read their stories and put yourself in their shoes. Understand their frustration. Ask yourself, what you would say to address their concerns if these were your own family members and neighbors. Please remember that the names of the petition signers are confidential and should not be shared with anyone other than CDC staff.

Again, I appreciate your swift work in making data publicly available online. I ask you to take the next step by making representatives available to explain that data to the people of West Virginia and answer their remaining questions. Our families and our economy cannot recover until confidence is regained and trust is restored.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie E. Tennant".

Natalie E. Tennant
West Virginia Secretary of State

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