



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

February 18, 2014

Dr. Tom Frieden
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Mr. Frieden,

Since January 9, 2014, nine West Virginia counties have been under a State of Emergency due to crude MCHM and PPH contaminating the water supply, affecting more than 300,000 citizens in our state. This incident is unprecedented both in West Virginia, and nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assisted us early in this process by establishing a screening level for crude MCHM of 1 part per million, which is considered protective of public health.

We appreciate the cooperation between the state and federal government. This screening level continues to be critical to our efforts to ensure the public has water appropriate for drinking, bathing, cooking, and other uses. In addition, the Epi Aid Team was invaluable in gathering emergency department data on possible health effects and we appreciate their leadership.

Like you, we are committed to the health and well-being of our citizens. Due to the limited number of studies on crude MCHM and PPH, we are formally requesting the CDC, or its partners, immediately conduct further epidemiological and /or toxicological studies. In addition, there is a specific need to address ongoing population surveillance or monitoring. It is critical this study be funded and that work begins immediately.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you further regarding a timetable that outlines a plan of action. We believe you will agree there is a pressing need to assist the people of the State of West Virginia through further study of potential health effects resulting from exposure to water contaminated with crude MCHM and PPH.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor
State of West Virginia



Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary
WV Department of Health and Human Resources

cc: Ms. Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Mr. David Agnew, Deputy Assistant to the President/Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
The Honorable Joe Manchin
The Honorable Nick Rahall
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
WV Senate President Jeffrey V. Kessler
WV House Speaker Timothy R. Miley