



April 29, 2016

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

### **The Water Quality Association Endorses Senator Brown and Senator Portman's Senate Bill 2535**

Dear Senator Brown & Senator Portman:

The Water Quality Association (WQA) is pleased to support the efforts of Congress as they seek water quality legislation in the wake of the Flint, Michigan water crisis. Any legislation to assist Americans during periods of water contamination emergencies is important to the safety of public health. Specifically, we strongly endorse the provisions under Senate Bill 2535, Section 2, page 13, lines 1-7, providing for a State that has primary enforcement to implement a short-term remedy, including bottled water or a water filtration system, seven days after the date of a lead exceedance public notice to each affected household.

When water leaves a municipal treatment facility, it meets all the guidelines of the Safe Drinking Water Act. But, because water travels a long distance to reach a home or business, the water coming out of the faucet may not. The potential for contaminants to make their way into the water after treatment is very real. Continuous monitoring and public notification when there is a lead exceedance of the action level set by the EPA provides essential communication to residents. Senate Bill 2535, goes a step further, to provide guidance on remediation. Point-of-use and point-of-entry water filtration systems work to treat water at the tap or entry point of a home or building. These treatment devices provide a feasible solution that can be implemented immediately after a notification and might be more economical for communities where repairing deteriorating infrastructure is too burdensome. There are several third-party certified products to remove lead, providing reliable options.

WQA is a not-for-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial and industrial water treatment industry. WQA's Product Certification Program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a third party certification body to test and certify water treatment technologies. Products certified through WQA's Product Certification Program have been tested and certified to the material safety requirement and contaminant reduction claim(s) as specified by the standard. Products displaying the WQA Gold Seal assure they have been rigorously tested to meet the requirements of the standard and they are effective for treating the contaminants which are covered by their certified claims. Factory audits are performed by WQA on a regular basis to ensure there are no changes to the product which would negatively impact safety or performance.



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With lead contamination in drinking water, the use of POU/POE systems – whole house or at the tap water treatment – can go far in making sure everyone has access to safer and healthier water. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on water quality legislation that addresses remediation and draws attention to methods for removing contaminants from drinking water. We will be happy to work with you and other to answer any questions surrounding water filtration treatment. Please do not hesitate to call us anytime to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don McGhee".

Don McGhee, MWS  
President  
Water Quality Association  
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630-505-0160