

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 2017

The Honorable J. Randall Robinson  
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army  
Department of the Army  
Installations, Energy and Environment  
110 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Thank you for holding a public meeting in the Town of Merrimac. The news that the US Army is backing off their commitment to provide a municipal water facility continues to cause anxiety. Several meeting attendees not only expressed disbelief that the Army has reversed its decision, but also that answers given to citizen's questions at last month's public meeting were not sufficient. As a result, I am writing to request information that is more detailed.

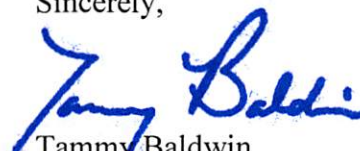
First, I am requesting that all information leading to the Army's original decision to support a municipal water system and the subsequent reversal of that decision be made available to my office and the Town of Merrimac. The Town, in good faith and at Army's prompting, took necessary steps to pursue a municipal water facility. The Army, in good faith, should provide in detail the reasons for their change of course. Anything less than transparency is unacceptable.

Secondly, I request that the Army provide residents with an explanation of both the design and the results of human health risk assessments they carry out. Town residents deserve a clear, detailed outline of the Army's plans to safeguard their health. Citizens should feel confident that any efforts the Army undertakes to address contaminants have a primary goal of providing safe, potable water to current and future citizens. In implementing assessments and studies, the Army must acknowledge that water quality conditions continue to change over time. Recently, water samples in area wells revealed the presence of new contaminants. Residents deserve to know if new contaminants will be part of Army's scope of water testing.

Finally, I call upon the U.S. Army to commit to a regular schedule of engagement and dialogue with the community. Such a commitment will lead to both community involvement and open discourse to ensure that residents' concerns are part of decisions made that affect their health and livelihood both now and into the future.

I respectfully ask for your expeditious reply to my requests. If you have further questions or concerns regarding my requests, please direct queries to Todd Crouch, Director of State Operations, in my office. He is available by phone at (608) 264-5338, or by email at [todd\\_crouch@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:todd_crouch@baldwin.senate.gov). Thank you for your continued work with the Town of Merrimac.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator