

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 8, 2017

Katherine Hammack  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
Department of the Army  
Installations, Energy and Environment  
110 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Ms. Hammack,

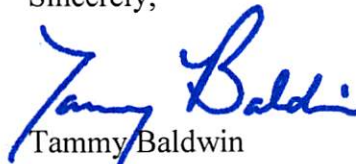
I write to you to express the deep concern your recent correspondence, dated January 17, 2017, has generated in the small community of Merrimac. Your letter discussed the status of the Army's provision of a municipal drinking water facility to serve the residents of the Town of Merrimac. My office shared your correspondence with Mr. Tim McCumber, Administrator for the Town of Merrimac. The Town responded with alarm and a local print media outlet immediately published an article about the project delay. For this reason, I strongly urge you to provide further explanation on the process Army is undertaking to deliver the municipal drinking water facility agreed upon in the 2015 Action Plan.

It is my understanding that the Action Plan had full approval from a multitude of various departments on both federal and state levels. However, your letter stated a team of environmental program and legal professionals from Army are currently performing an analysis on the actions that led to the drinking water proposal. What prompted this action? As you can imagine, this statement has caused profound anxiety in the Merrimac community and has brought about questions as to why Army is now engaged in what Merrimac believes is an unnecessary comprehensive review of a previously agreed upon plan.

The people of Merrimac overwhelmingly support this project and the Town is looking for an answer to the citizens' questions, worries and uncertainties about the status of implementation. Since the water crisis in Flint, Michigan is still making headlines, safe drinking water for Merrimac is at the forefront of residents' minds. The Army needs to reconfirm the commitment it made to Merrimac, as it is their obligation to supply remedies to the contamination resulting from the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Residents deserve to know the steps being taken to remedy the threat to their drinking water.

As their US Senator, I respectfully request the Army and the Department of Defense provide a documented timeline for implementation of the agreed upon municipal water facility. If you have further questions or concerns regarding my request, please direct your queries to Todd Crouch, Director of State Operations in my Madison, Wisconsin office. He is available by telephone 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 on this project and I request your expeditious response.

Sincerely,

  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator