



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

December 30, 2020

Michigan Senate
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Senators,

Today, I signed Enrolled Senate Bills 1251 and 1252, amending the Michigan Strategic Fund Act and the Michigan Trust Fund Act, which will allow the State to fulfill its obligation to pay \$600 million in settlement of the civil Flint water cases pending in various federal and state courts. This settlement is historic for a number of reasons.

First, it is an important step forward in the long process of helping Flint heal and making amends to the people of Flint who have faced so much uncertainty since the day their water supply was switched to the Flint River on April 25, 2014. What happened in Flint should not have happened, and financial compensation through this settlement is just one of the many ways we will continue to show our support for the City of Flint and its families.

Second, the settlement required the bipartisan cooperation of the legislature and I am pleased to note that the two Senate Bills that I signed today—one sponsored by a Democrat and one a Republican—had overwhelming support in both the Senate and the House. It is a testament of what can be accomplished when we work together.

Third, it is part of a comprehensive settlement program that was the product of intense negotiations with attorneys representing the plaintiffs. This settlement sets aside nearly 80% of the available relief for the benefit of the children of Flint, who were the most vulnerable when the water supply was switched to the Flint River.

Fourth, it brings to a conclusion complex litigation spanning thousands of individual claims and over a hundred cases that would have likely continued for years winding through the court system, leaving the people of Flint with more uncertainty, anxiety, and doubt about their futures.



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Finally, while this settlement is among the largest in the State of Michigan's history, it is still fiscally prudent and sound for the State's economic stability, growth, and credit worthiness.

I hope that, drawing on the determination and resolve that was required to achieve this settlement, we can collaborate on other important matters facing the State in these unprecedented times with a spirit of genuine cooperation for the benefit of our citizens on every front.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gretchen Whitmer', written in a cursive style.

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor