From:	Gary Cohen
To:	Water
Cc:	Subeck, Lisa; Zellers, Ledell; Cnare, Lauren; Verveer, Michael; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva; Rummel, Marsha; King, J Steven; Resnick, Scott; Skidmore, Paul; Cheeks, Maurice; Chris Schmidt; Larry Palm; Lucas Dailey; John Strasser; David Ahrens; Denise DeMarb; Joseph R. Clausius; Anita Weier; Mark Clear; Matthew J. Phair; Heikkinen, Thomas; Piper, Robin; Heinrich, Janel; Voegeli, Doug; Bruce Mayer; Nelson, Larry; Mike DePue; Patrick Delmore; Mayor
Subject:	Re: Contact Water Utility Board
Date:	Monday, October 27, 2014 3:57:54 PM

Dear Council Persons and members of the Water Utility Board,

This morning I wrote to all the members of the City Council, as well as our Mayor, members of the Water Utility Board, and others about the review of the water fluoridation policy of the City of Madison and its Water Utility Board to be address at the public meeting on October 28, 2014. I strongly opposed the continued fluoridation of our water supply, as well as the MWU (Madison Water Utility) hiding from the public information about groups at higher than average risk for fluoride poisoning.

I brought up the question of possible litigation against the City of Madison and/or the members of the MWU Board. I have been thinking about this possibility and have concluded that the probability of such litigation being successful is extremely unlikely, and hopefully will not be a major factor in your decision about whether to continue the fluoridation of our water.

To win such a lawsuit, a litigant would have to prove that they had not been exposed to fluoride from any of the following sources:
1) fluoridated toothpaste
2) dental fluoride treatment
3) black teas high in fluoride
4) grape juice and wine high in fluoride
5) any processed foods made from fluoridated water
6) any soft drinks, sports drinks, or beers made from fluoridated water
7) any occupational exposure to fluoride
8) any environmental exposure to fluoride from industrial sources

They would then have to show that it was fluoride that caused their health problem, not other factors. There is only a relatively small number of problems that are directly attributable to fluoride poisoning that I know of: 1) dental fluorosis, and 2) osteosarcoma (rare form of bone cancer in males exposed to fluoridated water between the ages of 6 and 8, who have a much higher risk than usual).

This is a steep set of hurdles to jump over, and probably few if any would meet them. And if they did, they would have to be asked why they were drinking

Madison water if they were so careful to avoid all other exposure to fluoride. The City of Madison has never hidden or made it difficult to find out how much fluoride we add to the water.

For all those reasons, I doubt Madison is in jeopardy of losing any such litigation, and so, as I have said, it should not be a factor to prevent us from ending water fluoridation and being honest about why we have.

Gary Cohen, Ph.D.