

From: [Deming, Amy](#)
To: [Water Utility Board](#)
Subject: FW: Support of Fluoride
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 8:08:02 AM
Attachments: [F2_Support_Letter.docx](#)

From: Doughty, Sarah <sarah.doughty@marquette.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support of Fluoride

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August 23rd, 2020

Dear Madison Water Utility Council,

Having healthy teeth is a significant factor in determining whether children in this community are able to eat, sleep, speak, and learn. It's a key factor in whether the adults in this community can interview successfully for good-paying jobs.

Community water fluoridation helps to protect teeth from decay for people of all ages. It has been proclaimed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. According to the best available scientific evidence, community water fluoridation is safe, effective, and economical in preventing tooth decay. Our community should maintain water fluoridation so that our residents continue receiving these decay-preventing benefits.

Community water fluoridation saves money. On an individual basis, the lifetime, per-person cost of community water fluoridation is less than the cost of one dental filling. The estimated return on investment for community water fluoridation (including productivity losses) ranged from \$4 in small communities of 5,000 people or less to \$27 in large communities of 200,000 people or more.

The benefits of water fluoridation build on those from fluoride in toothpaste. Fluoride toothpaste alone is insufficient, which is why pediatricians and dentists often prescribe fluoride tablets to children living in non-fluoridated areas. Simply by drinking water, people can benefit from water fluoridation's cavity protection, regardless of age, education, race, or socioeconomic status.

As a citizen, my first concern is the health of my community members. Discontinuing community water fluoridation may reduce expenses for the city in the short term. However, it will inevitably lead to higher dental costs for community members, as individuals and families pay for tooth fillings, extractions, and emergency room services. We cannot afford to end community water fluoridation.

The bottom line is that community water fluoridation remains the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay. That is why organizations such as the American Dental Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, along with more than 100 major health and medical organizations recognize the public health benefits of community water fluoridation. Additional information regarding community water fluoridation is available from ilikemyteeth.org. On behalf of my community, I support community water fluoridation and encourage Madison to continue this valuable prevention program for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,

Sarah Doughty
Marquette University School of Dentistry Class of 2024