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October 22, 2014

Madison Water Utility Board
Attention: Ms. Amy Robb
119 E. Olin Ave
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Members of the Madison Water Utility Board:

The American Dental Association (ADA), Wisconsin Dental Association and the Dane County Dental Society support community water fluoridation.

Because of its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay, fluoridation of community water supplies has been proclaimed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Fluoridation is safe, effective, economical and socially equitable in preventing tooth decay.

The ADA's position on fluoridation is based on the best available science. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the ADA's premier resource, *Fluoridation Facts*, which is a virtual encyclopedia of fluoridation information with more than 350 scientific references. The ADA is currently working on an update to this booklet and I have attached a number of significant new studies that will be included.

With thousands of studies conducted and nearly 70 years of practical experience, fluoridation is one of the most studied public health measures in history. ADA supports continued research on fluoridation. New information is continuously emerging and being disseminated. However, it is important to view information with a critical eye especially when it comes to discerning the difference between personal opinion and research conducted using the scientific method. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts. Sorting out what appear to be inconsistencies in evidence can be difficult for those without an intimate knowledge of the scientific method. However, it is possible to distinguish between poor quality and high quality evidence and so make an assessment based on the best available science.

Studies show that community water fluoridation prevents at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults, even with the widespread use of fluoride-containing products such as toothpaste. Simply by drinking water, people can benefit from fluoridation's cavity protection—regardless of age, education, race or socio-economic status.

In the past fourteen years (2000 through 2013), more than 427 U.S. communities in 42 states have voted to adopt or retain successful fluoridation programs. The latest data show that in 2012, 74.6% of the U.S. population on public water systems, or a total of 210.7

million people, had access to optimally fluoridated water. This is an increase of about six million people from 2010. The Healthy People 2020 Objective is to reach 79.6%.

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 ADA, as well as more than 100 other national and international organizations, recognize the public health benefits of fluoridation.

Thank you for your attention to this important community health issue. Additional information regarding fluoridation is available from the ADA at www.ada.org/fluoride.

Sincerely,

Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S.
President

MF:JSM
Enclosures
cc: Dr. Dr. Tom Reid, president, Dane County Dental Society
Dr. Julio Rodriguez, president, Wisconsin Dental Association
Mr. Mark Paget, executive director, Wisconsin Dental Association
Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director, American Dental Association

Additional Fluoridation Studies Listed Alphabetically by Lead Author

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Expert Committee Reports and Systematic Reviews in Chronological Order

Royal Society of New Zealand and the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor Health Effects of Water Fluoridation: a Review of the Scientific Evidence August 2014

Public Health England. Water fluoridation: health monitoring report for England 2014

U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force. The Guide to Community Preventive Services. Preventing Dental Caries: Community Water Fluoridation October 2000; Updated April 2013

California Environmental Protection Agency 2011
(Transcript of meeting of the Proposition 65 Carcinogen Identification Committee)

U.S. EPA. Fluoride Risk Assessment and Relative Source Contribution 2010

European Commission of the European Union Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER). Fluoridation 2010

Health Canada. Findings and Recommendations of the Fluoride Expert Panel (January 2007) April 2008

Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council 2007
A Systematic Review of the Efficacy and Safety of Fluoridation; Part A: Review Methodology and Results

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