WISCONSIN
Oral Health
COALITION
Children's Health
Alliance of Wisconsin

October 9, 2014

Madison Water Utility Board
119 East Olin Avenue
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Madison Water Utility Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition (WOHC) and Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin (The Alliance) in support of community water fluoridation. This letter is in response to your upcoming discussion about the City of Madison's fluoridation policy at your board meeting on Oct. 28.

The Alliance is Wisconsin's voice for children's health. We raise awareness, mobilize leaders, impact public health and implement programs proven to work. Our mission is to ensure Wisconsin children are healthy, safe and able to thrive. Oral health has been one of our key initiatives since 1994. The WOHC is a dedicated group of more than 170 individuals, organizations and agencies addressing oral health access issues and working to improve oral health for all residents statewide.

Fluoridated water is the first line of defense against tooth decay for all age groups. There are more than 3,000 reputable studies over 65 years that consistently reaffirm the safety of community water fluoridation. Fluoride exists naturally in virtually all water supplies, and therefore it is not a question of choosing to get fluoride. Rather, the question is whether residents receive the optimal level that is documented to prevent tooth decay.

Unfortunately, misinformation has played a role in provoking opposition to water fluoridation. In the future, you may hear allegations that fluoridation causes a range of health concerns. These claims have not been proven by credible scientific evidence – and indeed, generally accepted science is to the contrary. For example, in response to the claim that fluoridation causes cancer, the American Cancer Society states, "Scientific studies show no connection between cancer rates in humans and adding fluoride to drinking water."

More than 100 national and international health organizations recognize the public health benefits of fluoridation for preventing tooth decay such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Public Health Association. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize water fluoridation as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Attached are documents with statements of support from these organizations and facts surrounding common myths on community water fluoridation.

In light of the oral health benefits and support from leading health organizations, on Oct. 28 please support community water fluoridation by maintaining the City of Madison's community water fluoridation program.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Ricketts

Alyssa Ricketts, JD
Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition Coordinator
Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin