

**From:** [Johnny Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Water Utility Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Water](#); [Johnny Johnson](#); [Harrington-McKinney, Barbara](#); [Heck, Patrick](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); [Verveer, Michael](#); [Bidar, Shiva](#); [Rummel, Marsha](#); [Moreland, Donna](#); [Prestigiacomo, Max](#); [Skidmore, Paul](#); [Henak, Zachary](#); [Martin, Arvina](#); [Abbas, Syed](#); [Evers, Tag](#); [Carter, Sheri](#); [Foster, Grant](#); [Tierney, Michael](#); [Baldeh, Samba](#); [Kemble, Rebecca](#); [Furman, Keith](#); [Albouras, Christian](#); [Obeng, Kwasi](#); [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Water Fluoridation potential removal  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:49:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Water Utility Board.pdf](#)

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Dear Water Utility Board members,

I write to you with grave concerns about the upcoming discussion of water fluoridation this coming Tuesday. Community water fluoridation (CWF) is the greatest preventive dental health measure that can be provided to all residents in Madison. Everyone, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic level, level of education, or access to dental care, benefits from this natural mineral's ability to stop at least [25% of cavities](#) for everyone. It requires no cognizant change in behaviors to reap the benefits; turn on the tap, enjoy less and less severe cavities, pain, suffering, and decreased quality of life.

The [safety](#) of CWF has been studied over the past 75 years since it first began in 1945 in the U.S. The preponderance of credibly conducted scientific literature continues to show that at levels of fluoride in CWF, there are absolutely no adverse health effects in anyone. From the CDC:

## A Safe Intervention

Expert panels consisting of scientists from the United States and other countries, with expertise in various health and scientific disciplines, have considered the available evidence in peer-reviewed literature and have not found convincing scientific evidence linking community water fluoridation with any potential adverse health effect or systemic disorder such as an increased risk for cancer, Down syndrome, heart disease, osteoporosis and bone fracture, immune disorders, low intelligence, renal disorders, Alzheimer disease, or allergic reactions.<sup>9,11</sup>

Documented risks of community water fluoridation are limited to dental fluorosis, a change in dental enamel that is cosmetic in its most common form. Changes range from barely visible lacy white markings in milder cases to pitting of the teeth in the rare, severe form. In the United States, most dental fluorosis seen today is of the mildest form, affecting neither aesthetics nor dental function.<sup>24</sup> Fluorosis can occur when young children—typically less than 8 years of age, whose permanent teeth are still forming under the gums—take in fluoride from any source.<sup>9,11</sup> Recommendations provided by the U.S. Public Health Service for the optimal level of fluoride in public water systems take into account levels of water consumption as well as the availability of other fluoride products.<sup>25</sup>

Fluoride naturally exists in all water, including surface water, wells, and our oceans, at varying levels. It is the 13th most abundant mineral in the earth's crust. The level that naturally exists in our drinking water is too low to reduce cavities. Through the addition of a minuscule amount of fluoride to your water to bring it up to a level of 0.7 ppm (parts per million; milligrams per liter), at least 25% of cavities are prevented for everyone.

### Uneven burden of cavities:

Profound disparities in oral health status remain for some population subgroups, such as the poor, the elderly, and many members of racial and ethnic minority groups. Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases among American children with 1 of 4 children living below the federal poverty level experiencing untreated tooth decay.

Nearly one in five residents in Madison live in [poverty](#). Children living in poverty experience nearly twice the number of cavities as those not in poverty. CWF is the most cost-effective means to deliver the optimal level of fluoride to everyone in the community. The CDC named water fluoridation one of ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. Others in that group of ten were seatbelts, vaccinations, and healthier mothers and babies.

For some, CWF may be the only preventive dental care that they will receive. To cease CWF will place the entire city's residents in a position of huge increases in cavities, more money spent on fillings, crowns, root canals, and extractions. Several recent studies have shown how ceasing CWF led to exponential rises in cavities. In a time where our country is experiencing a pandemic with people losing jobs, having less money to spend, and an economy that has been hugely affected by COVID, stopping a proven effective and safe public health measure could lead to catastrophic health changes in your families. Cavities are not just a hole in the tooth. They can and do lead to infections in other parts of the body from an abscessed tooth, including brain abscesses which can lead to death.

### Opposition to CWF:

There are opponents to CWF just as there are opponents to vaccinations. The leading opposition to vaccinations and CWF joined forces under the name of [Health-Liberty.org](#). Looking at this page you will see the Executive Director Paul Connett of the leading CWF opposition group in the U.S., the Fluoride Action Network (FAN), proudly displaying his organization alongside of the anti-vaccination folks. The exact same claims of harm from vaccinations are used in working to get communities across the U.S. to cease CWF. Connett is a British-American retired chemistry professor with

no training in the biological sciences. His area of expertise was in green waste management. The Royal Society of Chemistry in the U.K. has approximately 50,000 members worldwide. In a meeting a couple of years ago, their spokesperson stated that "We are not pro-CWF or anti-CWF. But we are pro the accurate interpretation of scientific research and data. "On the basis of published robust evidence water fluoridation was both safe and effective in reducing dental decay". Connett is out of step with his own colleagues.

Green Bay is undergoing an attack by Connett and his group, led primarily by Brenda Staudenmaier. Ms. Staudenmaier has led this battle before in Green Bay in 2017, and she travels around the state of WI to urge communities to stop CWF based on a long list of claims of health harms. While these statements are not scientifically accurate, she and FAN spin tidbits of facts from credible literature, interject their own opinions, throw them into a blender, and then pour them out over an unsuspecting community. Their claims du jour right now is that the IQ of children born of pregnant mothers who drank CWF have losses of 4-9 IQ points. The studies from which they pull this information have been shown to be of poor quality and worse yet, the data not supporting their conclusions. Nonetheless, they are relentless in pushing their materials at CWF decision-makers by flooding their inboxes with this misinformation. It is much easier to scare people than it is to unscare them. Especially when they are preying on pregnant mothers. That is unforgivable.

**About me:**

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Green Bay had a serious challenge back in 2017. Ms. Staudenmaier was at the center of it. When it looked like there would be a certain defeat there, I was invited to come and present to the mayor and common council on the facts vs opinions of CWF. Ms. Staudenmaier presented for the opponents. The common council voted 10-1 to retain CWF.

Green Bay is once again under heavy attack by Connett, Staudenmaier, and a host of their followers. In this virtual world that we are forced into right now, they have flooded the Zoom meetings with their troops. I have helped the locals to provide credibly conducted, peer-reviewed literature that has been published in credibly recognized scientific journals, to show that the claims that are being made are not accurate. The silent majority does not show up on these meetings. They depend on their leaders to do their due diligence to provide for their health, safety, and well-being. And that falls onto you all in Madison.

The opponents have undoubtedly sent you mountains of misinformation by now. On the other hand, those who support continuation of CWF in Madison are likely unaware of this campaign. A handful of vociferous people that don't CWF want their desires to be forced upon the entire community. Well, that's not how a democratic society functions. We provide for the entire community, for the greater good. The few who do not agree with public policies cannot have them tailored to meet their whims. A society in chaos is what they would like. That's not how it works in our country.

Please keep your water fluoridated for your families. Their health is in your hands. Do not be swayed by information sent to you that is not from a credible group. The American Fluoridation Society is [listed](#) on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a Professional Organization recognizing the benefits of community water fluoridation. And that we provide educational materials. FAN is not listed in this group. Please rely on credible science when making the important decision to continue to fluoridate your water.

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Warm regards,

Johnny

Johnny Johnson, Jr., DMD, MS  
Pediatric Dentist  
Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry  
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August 20, 2020

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Warm regards,



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Advisory Committees**

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Kip Duchon, P.E.

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