

From: [Deming, Amy](#)
To: [Water Utility Board](#)
Subject: FW: KEEP Water Fluoridation
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 8:11:41 AM

From: Daniel Gerdes <dgerdes4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:37 PM
To: Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: KEEP Water Fluoridation

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support of continued community water fluoridation in the city of Madison. It is an incredibly **safe, effective** and **inexpensive** way to significantly improve and maintain the oral health of our patients. Adjusting the levels of this natural occurring mineral in water systems to optimal levels is a powerful tool for **health equity** in our community. ***Water fluoridation reaches everyone in the community regardless of age, race, education or income level providing valuable protection against tooth decay.*** Because fluoridation reaches large numbers of people where they live, learn, work and play, it is far more effective than other forms of fluoride delivery. Well over 3,000 studies have been published on the subject of fluoridation, and this science is what we use as a profession to constantly re-evaluate and update our recommendations through quality, evidence based research.

Tooth decay remains a significant public health problem in Wisconsin. An estimated 55 percent of third-graders have had cavities according to the state Department of Health Services. National health care statistics show oral disease causes adults to lose 164 million work hours each year. With Americans keeping their teeth longer, fluoride also continues to be important for preventing tooth decay among seniors. The elderly are especially susceptible to tooth decay because of exposed root surfaces and mouth dryness. Drinking fluoridated water has been shown to reduce tooth decay over a lifetime by a minimum of 25 percent. It can provide individuals this cavity prevention all for less than the cost of one dental filling. In fact, for most cities, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves \$38 in unnecessary treatment costs.

On behalf of dental and community health professionals throughout the city, I urge you to follow the science and maintain the water fluoridation in our

community. **It is one of the most proven and successful preventive public health measures of the modern era, and the oral health of our community and its most vulnerable would suffer greatly if it were to be removed.** Visit www.ilikemyteeth.org for even more information. Thank you for your consideration, feel free to reach out to me directly at 608-222-3403 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gerdes, D.D.S.

Complete Family Dentistry