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Dear Water Quality Task Force and Public Works Committee Members,

It has come to our attention that your task force and committee will potentially be discussing fluoride in the local water system. Fluoridation of community water supplies is considered one of the most significant public health advances of the 20th century and one of the safest, most cost-effective ways to increase overall oral health. Since its introduction over 65 years ago, fluoridation has dramatically improved the dental health of tens of millions of Americans. Time and again, public opinion polls show an overwhelming majority of Americans support water fluoridation.

Established in 1870, the Wisconsin Dental Association (WDA) is the state's largest organization representing dentistry. The WDA has over 2,900 members statewide who are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care. We ask you to please consider:

- The June 2000 Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America stated fluoridation is "an inexpensive means of improving oral health that benefits all residents of a community, young and old, rich and poor alike." This public health measure benefits individuals of all socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care.
- Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency has established drinking water standards for a number of substances, including fluoride, to protect the public's health.
- More than 125 national and international organizations recognize the public health benefit of fluoridation, including the American and Canadian Dental Associations, US. Public Health Service, American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization.
- Residents who receive the benefits of water fluoridation experience approximately 30 percent less tooth decay.
- Every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs for most cities.

On behalf of all the adults and children living in Milwaukee, the WDA urges local officials to maintain fluoride to the municipal water system. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate contacting the WDA for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature appears to read "Dr. Ryan Braden".

Dr. Ryan Braden
President