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

August 25, 2020

Chairman Eugene L. McLinn and Members of the City of Madison Water Utility Board:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and its 40,000 members, I am writing to express our strong support of community water fluoridation.

The AGD is the nation's second largest dental association, and is the only organization whose top priority is to address the most pressing issues in general dentistry. We work diligently to advocate for effective policies that will most benefit the oral health care of patients and the public.

Many barriers to oral health care contribute to individuals not being able to receive regular, preventative treatment. While eliminating these barriers remains a top priority for the AGD, we support and encourage the use of community water fluoridation, as it is one of the single most effective ways in preventing tooth decay. It is especially important to note its significance in rural areas and underserved populations. These factors add additional barriers to care, such as extended geographical distance to providers, making such communities less likely to thrive in the area of oral health care.

Through 75 years of practice and decades of research, community water fluoridation is proven to be safe and reduce cavities – one of the most chronic diseases among children – by approximately 25% in both children and adults. Studies have also demonstrated the negative effects removing community fluoridation can have on the members of that community, such as that of Juneau, Alaska, which showed a significantly higher number of caries-related procedures over five years following the removal of their water fluoridation systems.

With optimal levels of water fluoridation, all members of the Madison community have the opportunity to protect their teeth regardless of the additional barriers they may face in receiving regular oral health care. We strongly urge you to stand with us and support the oral health of your residents by providing community water fluoridation in the City of Madison.

Thank you for allowing the AGD to express our support of community water fluoridation and we appreciate your consideration in advance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

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