



April 11, 2017

John Young
OWASA Board Chair
Orange Water and Sewer Authority
400 Jones Ferry Rd
Carrboro, NC 27510

Dear Mr. Young,

The Orange County Board of Health would like to offer our utmost support for the continuation of fluoridation of the Orange County water supply. First, we would like to thank OWASA for the quick actions taken to prevent excess fluoride from entering the water distribution system in February. We also appreciate and support the efforts you intend to take to prevent this occurrence in the future. The Board of Health would like to affirm the decision to continue fluoridation of the water supply by offering the following supportive resources and facts.

- “Given the dramatic decline in tooth decay during the past 70 years since community water fluoridation was initiated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) named fluoridation of drinking water to prevent dental caries (tooth decay) as one of ten great public health interventions of the 20th Century”. For more information on the CDC’s position on fluoridation visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html>
- According to the American Dental Association, “the accumulated dental, medical and public health evidence concerning fluoridation has been reviewed and evaluated numerous times by academicians, committees of experts, special councils of government and most of the world’s major national and international health organizations. The verdict of the scientific community is that water fluoridation, at recommended levels, safely provides major oral health benefits”. <http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/advocating-for-the-public/fluoride-and-fluoridation/fluoridation-facts>
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was petitioned on November 23, 2016 to exercise its authority to “prohibit the purposeful addition of fluoridation chemicals to U.S. water supplies.” The EPA denied this petition on February 17, 2017 primarily because there was “not set forth a scientifically defensible basis to conclude that any persons have suffered neurotoxic harm as a result of exposure to fluoride in the U.S. through the purposeful addition of fluoridation chemicals to drinking water...” Additional reasons can be found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0763-0001>



- The NC Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Section supports and provides educational material for fluoridation of community water. To view these materials visit:
<https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dph/oralhealth/education/index.htm>

The Orange County Board of Health agrees with the vast amount of evidence provided by accredited local, state, and federal agencies. After 70 years of practice, we know and believe that:

- Fluoride is recognized as an important nutrient for healthy teeth.
- Fluoridation of community water is the most cost effective method to prevent tooth decay.
- Fluoridation is an important public health measure and modest community-wide investment that benefits everyone.

We are glad that OWASA plans to continue fluoridation of the water system, introducing new safeguards to continue to prevent excess fluoridation, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Liska Lackey, RN
Board Chair

Susan Elmore, MS, DVM, DACVP, DABT, FIATP
Board Vice-Chair