

IRVINE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
238 BROADWAY
PHONE: 723-2197
IRVINE, KENTUCKY 40336

February 7, 2024

Subject: HB 141

Dear members of the Kentucky General Assembly,

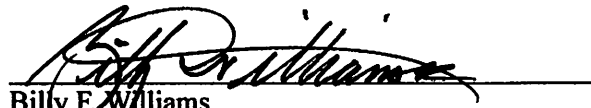
I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the practice of adding fluoride to public drinking water. While I understand the intention behind this measure, I believe it is essential to consider the potential drawbacks and health implications associated with widespread fluoridation.

1. **Potential Health Risks:** There is ongoing debate and research regarding the potential health risks of consuming fluoridated water. Some studies have suggested a possible connection between excessive fluoride intake and adverse health effects, including dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and neurodevelopmental issues. It is crucial to thoroughly examine these findings and consider the long-term impact on public health.
2. **Lack of Individual Control:** Adding fluoride to public drinking water does not provide individuals with the ability to control their fluoride intake based on their specific health needs. People with certain medical conditions or sensitivities may be more vulnerable to the adverse effects of fluoride, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for everyone.
3. **Ethical Concerns:** Fluoridating public water raises ethical questions about medication without informed consent. Unlike medications prescribed by healthcare professionals, individuals do not have the option to opt out of fluoridated water, making it a mass medication practice that may infringe on personal autonomy.
4. **Environmental Impact:** The process of water fluoridation may have environmental consequences. The disposal of fluoride additives into water sources can contribute to environmental pollution. Additionally, the production and transportation of fluoride compounds may have associated environmental costs that need to be considered.
5. **Alternatives for Dental Health:** There are alternative methods for promoting dental health that do not involve the mass fluoridation of water. Education campaigns, access to affordable dental care, and topical fluoride applications are some alternatives that could be explored to achieve the desired dental health outcomes without resorting to widespread water fluoridation.

I urge you to thoroughly review the available scientific evidence and public input before making decisions regarding the continuation or expansion of water fluoridation. It is essential to prioritize the well-being and concerns of the community members who may be affected by such policies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that the decision-making process takes into account a comprehensive and transparent assessment of the potential drawbacks associated with adding fluoride to public drinking water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy F. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Billy F. Williams
Director of Operations
Irvine Municipal Utilities
606-723-2197