

# MARTIN COUNTY UTILITY BOARD

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Kentucky General Assembly  
702 Capital Ave.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

RE: HB 141

Dear Member of the Kentucky General Assembly,

Water Utilities throughout the nation are dedicated to the privilege of providing a quality product at an affordable rate. Our responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our customers doesn't end when the water leaves our plants, it continues into the homes of every one of them. Clean, safe drinking water is a necessity for all people.

In the past 4 years the Martin County Water District (MCWD) has worked tirelessly with an outside contract operations and management company to correct decades of neglect. These issues range from critical infrastructure decay to financial deficits that made the management of the utility impossible. These efforts have been successful in many ways. Water loss is improving, financial deficits have been stabilized and the district is now operating in the black. Additionally, there has been decades of negativity throughout the community and state regarding its utility. The one constant that has always remained is that Martin County always receives our certificate for fluoridation of the water system. We have proudly displayed this certificate of achievement for fluoridation in the water plant for years. Even when our infrastructure was crumbling around us. We maintained our fluoride levels.

The fluoridation of water started in 1954. Fluoridation is the addition of a chemical into our water supply that supposedly aids in preventing the decay of teeth. Supporters of fluoridation claim that adding fluoride has no side effects and is effective. They will also tell you that fluoride is naturally occurring in most water and that we are just increasing the levels. The truth is that naturally occurring fluoride has a chemical compound of NaF (Sodium Fluoride). The chemical that we add to our water system is  $H_2SiF_6$  (Hydrofluosilicic acid). It's not even the same chemical. What it is, is the chemical byproduct of the fertilizer industry. A byproduct that we tout as the leading protector of people's teeth aside from proper dental hygiene.

Fluoride is the oldest and longest standing mass medication of humans left in our free nation. The fact is that fluoridation is the only chemical added to water that treats the

people, not the water. It doesn't disinfect, it doesn't soften, and it certainly doesn't reduce pollutants in the water. It does, however, lower pH levels making it more acidic and eat holes in concrete.

The facts are out there proving that fluoridation of water is dangerous to human health. It lowers IQ and causes multiple adverse effects to the human body.

The MCWD believes that passing HB 141 is critical to giving utilities the power to decide what is best for their customers. Not only can we ensure the safety of our customers' health, but we can also see a decrease in chemical costs associated with the treatment of our water.

In 2023, MCWD spent over \$14,000 on the purchase of Fluoride. That money could be better spent correcting many infrastructure issues in the utility. Money that could help keep rates low.

We strongly urge the General Assembly to pass HB 141 to allow water utilities in the state to decide for themselves whether they want to feed an acid into their water system. Give water utilities the power to decide if they want to focus on the safety and sustainability of their water system or continue to medicate their customers.

Kindly,

X *Craig Miller*

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Craig C. Miller  
Division Manager