



MOREHEAD UTILITY PLANT BOARD

Serving You Over 50 Years

February 7, 2024

House Committee on State Government
702 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: House Bill 141, Water Fluoridation

I'm writing on behalf of, and with the enthusiastic blessing of, the Morehead Utility Plant Board and as a professional in the water treatment industry, in support of House Bill 141. As you are aware, Kentucky is in the minority of states in which drinking water fluoridation is still mandatory. In November 2022, I was honored to appear before a joint committee to offer my perspective.

When I gave my testimony, I listed several reasons why myself, and a plurality of operators within the water treatment community are opposed to injecting fluoride into our communities tap water. Cost, toxicity, employee safety concerns, and fluoride not contributing anything of value to the water purification process were all part of my testimony that day. They're all valid reasons to oppose the practice of fluoridation in our state.

What concerns me most about fluoridation then and now, however, are strictly the ethics of fluoridation. Water fluoridation may benefit some of our consumers, but we also know that some members of our communities are particularly sensitive to consumption of the chemical and studies in recent decades have linked water fluoridation to numerous health problems. Since it does nothing to improve the quality of potable water, fluoridation is simply mass medication for the millions of citizens in our state. A one size fits all dose for everyone, whether needed or harmful to each particular individual. A doctor cannot prescribe medication to his/her patients without informed consent, yet we inject a hazardous chemical byproduct of fertilizer manufacturing into our drinking water each day as preventative medicine.

Thank you for reading this letter and for considering House Bill 141. You will hear testimony both for and against fluoridation, all from good, well-meaning professionals. Supporting this bill will not ban water fluoridation in this state, but it will give individual communities a choice. Please afford us that choice by voting in support of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillip Adkins
Morehead Utility Plant Board
Water Treatment Plant Superintendent