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September 18, 2007

Governor Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire,

I wrote you on August 4 regarding fluoride added to our drinking water along with lead, mercury, arsenic, and other toxic chemicals.

Denise Clifford of the Department of Health responded to my letter on August 20. Ms. Clifford admitted that trace amounts of mercury, lead, and asbestos were being added to our water as part of the fluoride, but she said the amounts were small. According to my research, the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of arsenic and lead, because of the difficulty and expense of treating for them, is zero. That means that no chemical containing any amount of these elements whatsoever should be added to drinking water.

Ms. Clifford said that NSF International had compiled test data in 2000 for fluoridation chemicals. I would like to know, and you should want to know exactly what chemicals are contained in the barrels of the raw "fluoride" which is added to our water.

Ms. Clifford relies for authority on NSF International. It is my understanding that NSF International is a trade association which merely validates practices which major industries want to validate, much like the Carpet Institute. Please confirm this is true.

The fluorosilicates which constitute "fluoride" come from the scrubber liquor used in smokestacks for the fertilizer, uranium, aluminum, and steel industries, and these are a witch's brew of hundreds of different compounds and trace minerals. Ms. Clifford admits that there are trace amounts of mercury, lead, and asbestos in fluoridation materials. Given the fact that there are other ways that the same contaminants enter our water, why should more be added to our water?

The National Research Council produced a 500 page report which employed a very high standard and stated only conclusions which have been proven at a high level of certainty. The NRC concluded that the levels of fluoride currently allowed result in dental fluorosis, bone fractures, Stage 1 skeletal fluorosis,

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decreased thyroid function, and adverse effects on the brain.” A review of the National Research Council report can be found at: <http://www.fluoridealert.org/health/epa/nrc/carton-2006.pdf>. A print copy of the review is enclosed for your convenience. The full report can be purchased by going to: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11571.

Hundreds of dentists, medical doctors, research doctors, toxicologists, and other scientific professionals have signed a Professionals’ Statement Calling for an End to Water Fluoridation. A copy is enclosed for your convenience along with the comments of many of the signers. The petition can be found online at <http://www.fluorideaction.org/professionals.statement.html>.

A short summary of the points made in the Professionals’ Statement is as follows:

Fluoridation results in the following maladies: an increased risk of bone fractures, decreased thyroid function, lowered IQ, arthritic-like conditions, dental fluorosis and, possibly osteosarcoma.

Fluoridation and other exposures to fluorides causes 32% of American children to have dental fluorosis.

The American Dental Association recommends that tap water not be used to reconstitute infant formula during the first 12 months of life because it results in ingestion of too much fluoride.

Fluoride reduces tooth decay only if it is applied topically, not when it is ingested. Thus, adding fluoride to drinking water does not reduce tooth decay.

There is a causal connection between water fluoridation and osteosarcoma, particularly in young boys.

Fluoride used in drinking water is an industrial grade waste product which has never been subjected to toxicological testing nor received FDA approval for human ingestion

Putting fluoride in water is the result of manipulation by major industries looking for a way to off load their toxic waste—and at the same time make a profit. It is toxic waste disposal through disbursement. Unfortunately, the disbursement is into our drinking water. This is crony capitalism at its worst.

There is enough evidence right now for the state of Washington to place a ban on water fluoridation, and that is what you should do. As attorney general, your task was to protect the health and welfare of the people of Washington. Even more so that is your duty as governor.

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You have a research staff; I don't. Bearing that in mind, I hope you will ask your experts to respond to these issues.

I am also enclosing a request for documents under the Washington Public Records Act, RCW 42.56.080.

Sincerely,

James Robert Deal
Attorney at Law