

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2005**

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Work Session – County Commissioners
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Work Session – County Administrator
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Public Health Department – Peter Browning, Director
1. Introduction of Jeanne King, New Environmental Health Specialist
 2. Update - United General Hospital Events
 3. Call for Public Hearing to Declare the Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach and Quiet Cove Area an “Area of Special Concern” to Require Operations and Maintenance of Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems
 4. Discussion – The Health Department and Anti-Smoking Laws
 5. Miscellaneous
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items
- 11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period
- 1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition
- *T 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing – Fluoridation in Skagit County

The Skagit County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 2005, with Commissioners Don Munks, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PETER BROWNING, DIRECTOR

1. Introduction of Jeanne King, New Environmental Health Specialist.

Corrine Story, Environmental Health Supervisor, introduced the new Environmental Health Specialist, Jeanne King, who replaced Jim Watkins. Ms. King will primarily be working to develop the Operations & Maintenance On-Site Sewage Program.

2. Update - United General Hospital Events.

Greg Reed, Superintendent with United General Hospital, shared a PowerPoint presentation and updated the Board on what is taking place at the hospital. Mr. Reed reviewed the history of United General and explained that the hospital is presently licensed for 97 beds, is considered a critical access hospital, and has 35 acute care beds in use. In January 2004, it was accredited by the Joint Commission for Accredited Health Organizations (JCAHO). Mr. Reed said United Hospital’s main emphasis is to focus on patient safety. He provided an overview of services the hospital currently offers.

3. Call for Public Hearing to Declare the Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach and Quiet Cove Area an “Area of Special Concern” to Require Operations and Maintenance of Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems.

Ms. Story explained that the Health Department has been working with the community of Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach and Quiet Cove areas since December 2002, to address sewage disposal issues. She said the effort has resulted in nearly 75% of the property owners receiving operations and maintenance inspections to their systems, having repairs made to failing systems, and/or having designs for new systems submitted.

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Steve Olson, Environmental Health Specialist, introduced a few people from the Yokeko Point Community and shared with the Board a PowerPoint presentation on the area. Mr. Olson explained concerns regarding a public health threat due to direct discharge and untreated sewage. Mr. Olson requested that a public hearing be set for September 27, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. to declare the Yokeko Point, Dewey Beach and Quiet Cove Area an "Area of Special Concern." This would require the operations and maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said that he was glad that the community had come together and hopes that this critical issue can be solved.

Commissioner Munks also thanked the community for taking their part in this matter.

Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to hold a public hearing as outlined by the Mr. Olson. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050287)**

4. Discussion – The Health Department and Anti-Smoking Laws.

Peter Browning, Director, briefly went over Initiative 901 regarding proposed anti-smoking laws, which has enforcement implications that must be done at the local level. He said that because there is no funding attached to Initiative 901, whoever enforces the smoking laws must be able to cover their costs through fines. Mr. Browning stated that if the initiative passes in the November 2005 election, it will make Washington the 10th state to implement a statewide ban on smoking in all indoor public places including restaurants, bars, bowling alleys and non-tribal casinos.

5. Miscellaneous.

Ms. Story presented a resolution for the Board's signature, which upholds the Skagit County Health Officer's Decision regarding the solid waste fine for the improper disposal of animal carcasses assessed against Roger Pederson.

Commissioner Munks announced that Commissioner Anderson was absent at the time of the hearing and; therefore, will not be making a motion on this matter.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the resolution, as outlined by Ms. Story. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050288)**

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, August 15, 2005, items 3 through 20. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Items 1 and 2, Record of the Proceedings, will be approved on Tuesday, August 16, 2005.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, August 8, 2005. **(To be approved on August 16, 2005)**
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, August 9, 2005. **(To be approved on August 16, 2005)**
3. Resolution re-appointing Mike Crawford, Cheryl Bishop, Mary Scott and James Anderson to the Skagit County Public Facilities District Board, effective August 14, 2005, and expiring August 13, 2005. **(Resolution No. R20050282)**

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BUDGET & FINANCE:

4. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Skagit County and the City of Anacortes. The County will fund a total sum of \$15,694 to assist in providing library services to citizens of unincorporated Skagit County. The agreement shall commence upon the date of execution and continue through December 31, 2005. **(Contract No. C20050325)**
5. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Skagit County and the City of Burlington. The County will fund a total sum of \$5,958 to assist in providing library services to citizens of unincorporated Skagit County. The agreement shall commence upon the date of execution and continue through December 31, 2005. **(Contract No. C20050326)**
6. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement **No. c20050223**, between Skagit County and Skagit County Community Action Agency. The amendment will increase funding by \$60,000 for the purchase of food bank modulars in Hamilton and Alger. Total compensation will be \$165,959. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20050140)**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

7. Resolution AND Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management and the Mount Vernon Fire Department, which will work cooperatively to organize and oversee the formation of the Skagit County Citizen Corps Council and to continue the development and delivery of Skagit County Community Emergency Response Team trainings. Funding of this agreement in the amount of \$3,500 will be provided by a Homeland Security grant. The agreement shall commence upon the date of execution and continue through October 1, 2005. **(Resolution No. 20050283 AND Contract No. 20050327)**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

8. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement **No. C20030439** with David Parsons & Associates to provide additional real property appraisals as requested. It also adds \$7,500 in compensation to Exhibit B. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20050139)**

FARMLAND LEGACY:

9. Grant Deed of Conservation Easement protecting 33.4 acres of farmland owned by the Sundquist Family Farm. The Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program will pay \$165,000 for two development rights, of which half will be reimbursed by USDA-NRCS through the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. **(Contract No. C20050328)**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

10. Amendment No. 1 to Interlocal Cooperative Agreement **No. C20050173** with Skagit Valley Hospital for continuation of the "Mount Vernon Healthy Communities/Obesity Prevention Project". This amendment replaces Exhibit B with Exhibit B-1 and adds additional funding in the amount of \$18,700 for the time periods of January 1-June 30, 2005, and July 1-December 31, 2005. All other terms and conditions remain the same. **(Amendment No. A20050141)**

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HUMAN SERVICES:

11. Resolution AND Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Skagit County and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community for Criminal Justice Treatment Account services to Tribal adults for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007. These services are covered under the umbrella of Substance Abuse Treatment and allows for substance abuse treatment services to adults who are Tribal members, have criminal charges filed against them and who are at risk of chemical addiction. Compensation in the amount of \$60,000 is funded by the Department of Social and Health Services – Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse with State funds. The agreement shall commence on July 1, 2005, and continue through June 30, 2007. **(Resolution No. R20050284 AND Contract No. C20050329)**
12. Personal Services Agreement with Washington Vocational Services for the continuance of Development Disabilities Person to Person Employment Retention Services for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007. The County shall reimburse the contractor on a fee-for-service basis at a rate of \$60 per hour for services provided to an individual client with a maximum of \$720 billable for any one client in any given biennial quarter. **(Contract No. C20050330)**
13. Amendment No. 3 to County Program Agreement **No. C20030289** with the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services - Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse, to provide additional funding in the amount of \$85,000 for Substance Abuse Treatment services for adults and youth in the community for the period ending June 30, 2005. The new contract total is \$2,094,685. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20050142)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

14. Resolution AND Interlocal Cooperative and Customer Service Agreement between Skagit County and Skagit Transit for the sharing of information technology services and cooperative governmental purchasing. The agreement shall commence upon the date of signature and continue through January 1, 2008. **(Resolution No. R20050285 AND Contract No. C20050331)**

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES:

15. Personal Service Agreement between Skagit County and NW Adolescent, Steve Merritt, M.A., to provide specialized child, adolescent, adult and family assessment, evaluation and treatment, consultation, and monitoring with written reports as required by the County. The agreement shall commence on August 1, 2005, and continue through July 31, 2007. Maximum annual reimbursement for this agreement shall not exceed \$10,000. **(Contract No. C20050332)**
16. Resolution AND Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Skagit County and the Mount Vernon School District to provide Mount Vernon High School Credit Retrieval summer school classes for youth referred by Youth and Family Services. The agreement shall commence on June 3, 2005, and continue through September 30, 2007. Total compensation is not to exceed \$500. **(Resolution No R20050286 AND Contract No. C20050333)**
17. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, per Resolution No. 17300, between Skagit County and the Mount Vernon School District to provide mental health services such as individual and family counseling, mentoring and recreational activities. This agreement shall commence on September 1, 2005, and continue through August 31, 2007. Total compensation is not to exceed \$30,810. **(Contract No. C20050334)**

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18. Personal Services Agreement with Robert S. Fleming, M.D., to provide specialized child and adolescent comprehensive psychiatric evaluations. This agreement shall commence on September 1, 2005, and continue through August 31, 2007. Total compensation is not to exceed \$15,000. **(Contract No. C20050335)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

19. Personal Services Agreement between Skagit County and HDR Engineering to assist with the bid process related to the Skagit County Transfer Station building repair. HDR will inspect and perform a structural assessment and analysis of the building and prepare drawings and specifications in preparation for bid purposes. The contractor will also assist with bid reviews, attend pre-proposal meetings and perform field inspections during and at the end of construction. The agreement shall commence on April 27, 2005, and continue through December 31, 2005. Compensation is expected to total \$20,000. **(Contract No. C20050336)**
20. Amendment No. 1 to Vendor Services Agreement **No. C20040431** between Skagit County and Island Building & Marine for services needed to maintain the Sinclair Island Dock. This amendment extends the expiration date through September 30, 2006, and adds an additional \$5,000 to the compensation amount for a total not to exceed \$15,000. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20050143)**

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Janice Marlega of the Public Works Department presented a resolution awarding the Guemes Island Ferry Sidewalk Relocation Project bid to Culbertson Marine Construction, Inc. for the total amount of \$85,766.84.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050289)**

2. Ms. Marlega presented a resolution awarding the Farm to Market 2005 Asphalt Overlay Project bid to Rinker Materials for the total bid amount of \$116,732.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20050290)**

3. Staff presented a Sick Leave Donation Request for an employee of the Skagit County Law Library. Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the request and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which carried. **(Resolution No. R20050291)**

4. Staff presented a Quit Claim Deed and Excise Tax Affidavit for signature. Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve the documents and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, August 15, 2005, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 203345 through 203879 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,214,293.31 (Transmittal No. C-105-05); and

Payroll warrants numbered 170626 through 171583 in the total dollar amount of \$1,071,605.20 (Transmittal No. P-30-05); and

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Payroll warrants numbered 967372 through 967525 in the total dollar amount of \$192,908.08 (Transmittal No. P-31-05).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

Ron Kaaland, 3308 Cockreham Island Road, asked questions regarding the completion of the dike. Commissioner Anderson stated that he would look into the situation and report back to Mr. Kaaland.

Bill Silves, 13254 Parkhurst Lane, Sedro-Woolley, acknowledged the excellent work of the Skagit County Parks Department for the tremendous efforts that they put forth hosting the Western National Softball Tournament, which was recently held in Skagit County. Mr. Silves commended the Board, as well as Bob Vaux, for doing a fabulous job. He said he has many comments on how wonderful Skagit County is and then presented the Commissioners with a program from the tournament.

Mike McCarthy, 22257 Grip Road, Sedro-Woolley, outlined the expenses of the tournament and advised the Board that money was lost this year as not as many teams participated as last year.

Commissioner Anderson responded that he felt it would be appropriate to discuss this issue with the other Commissioners to see what they could do to help.

Mr. McCarthy thanked the Board for their support and noted that all of the teams involved in the tournament expressed a desire to return to Skagit County.

Bob Llama exclaimed that he'd been running tournaments for about fourteen years and felt that this one was the best yet.

PUBLIC MEETING – FLUORIDATION IN SKAGIT COUNTY.

See attached minutes

ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

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ATTEST:

Melissa Collins, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

In Re:
FLUORIDATION

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DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM
1800 CONTINENTAL PLACE, MOUNT VERNON, WA
REPORTED BY: JENNIFER L. CALDWELL
CCR NO. 2940

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS:

MR. DON MUNKS
MR. KEN DAHLSTEDT
MR. TED ANDERSON

FOR SKAGIT COUNTY:

MR. PETER BROWNING, DIRECTOR
SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
700 SOUTH SECOND STREET, SUITE 301

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MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON 98273-1071
(360) 336-9380

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MR. DON ANDERSON
SKAGIT COUNTY CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
605 SOUTH THIRD
MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON 98273
(360) 336-9460

ALSO PRESENT:

MS. JOANNE GIESBRECHT, CLERK FOR THE BOARD
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Good evening. It is Monday, August the 15th, 2005. It is a little after 7:00 o'clock, and we're here for a public meeting. It is on fluoridation in Skagit County.

As I said previously, what we, the three commissioners, are here for is to hear from you, those that are for, those that are against, those that have questions about the issue that has been brought forward to us by a group that would like us, as the Board of Health, to fluoridate or to ask, do you need to fluoridate the water in Skagit County.

The issue is that Anacortes has been fluoridating, since the early '60s, the water that they serve to the public. And so we've been asked to do the same, to direct PUD to do the same.

So what we're doing is trying to see from the

19:07:23 19 information that's brought forward, to educate us on the
19:07:29 20 issues of fluoridation and then to find out what our legal
19:07:33 21 responsibility is as the Board of Health, besides the
19:07:36 22 Board of Commissioners, in Skagit County.

19:07:39 23 So what we're going to do tonight is just allow both
19:07:43 24 sides of the issue to have the access to bring forward and
19:07:47 25 give us information. We're not ready to render a decision

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19:07:53 1 and are not going to render a decision tonight or in the
19:07:57 2 near future. There is some time we're going to take on an
19:08:02 3 issue like this, to listen to what everybody has to say.

19:08:07 4 What you say tonight will be put in the record. At
19:08:11 5 some future date I'm sure we'll hold more meetings and
19:08:15 6 culminate with a public hearing to talk about where the
19:08:19 7 county, where the Board of Health is headed with this
19:08:23 8 issue.

19:08:24 9 So I would ask that everybody be respectful. There
19:08:30 10 are at least two issues or more to this -- or two sides of
19:08:35 11 the issue to this issue, and so I would ask you to be
19:08:41 12 respectful to those that are speaking -- no outbursts --
19:08:49 13 so that everybody can hear what's going on.

19:08:52 14 We're recording this. It is on television. You can
19:08:56 15 see it on Channel 21, on cable. We want everybody to have
19:09:01 16 as much information as possible to follow through with
19:09:04 17 what we're doing.

19:09:07 18 What am I leaving out? Oh.

19:09:13 19 We will go ahead and open the meeting. If there is
19:09:16 20 a group that is here pro-fluoridation, I would like that
19:09:21 21 you kind of coordinate your comments with them. If
19:09:25 22 there's a group anti-fluoridation, I would like you to
19:09:29 23 kind of correlate what you have to say with them and then
19:09:33 24 some questions and so forth so we can get through this
19:09:37 25 meeting.

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19:09:37 1 We're going to close this at 9:00 o'clock, so it
 19:09:41 2 doesn't give us a lot of time to get through it. And
 19:09:46 3 we're going to start this meeting, like I said, we have
 19:09:50 4 not, as the county commissioners, the Board of Health,
 19:09:53 5 made a decision. We have, in discussions with PUD, agreed
 19:10:00 6 to not make a decision until after the end of October.
 19:10:05 7 They have hired a consultant to take a look at the issue,
 19:10:08 8 and so we are going to give them that opportunity to take
 19:10:12 9 a look at the cost and the issues of what they would have
 19:10:17 10 to do if they were to fluoridate. So there's a lot of
 19:10:22 11 time that we have here to look at the issues.

19:10:27 12 To start off the meeting, we have our -- from the
 19:10:32 13 prosecuting attorney's office, our civil attorney, Don
 19:10:38 14 Anderson, and Don can just quickly reference where we're
 19:10:43 15 at in discussing the legal issue.

19:10:45 16 Don?

19:10:49 17 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Commissioner. My
 19:10:54 18 name is Don Anderson. I am with the prosecutor's office,
 19:10:57 19 the civil division.

19:11:00 20 And several weeks ago, the commissioners gave me the
 19:11:04 21 assignment to do some research on the issue of
 19:11:10 22 fluoridation. Not so much the health issues as opposed to
 19:11:13 23 the legal issues that might confront the Board of Health,
 19:11:17 24 depending on what type of action they were to take,
 19:11:21 25 whether they were to pass a resolution directing the PUD

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19:11:25 1 to fluoridate its water, or whether they were to take some
 19:11:31 2 action to pass a permissive resolution allowing the PUD to
 19:11:37 3 have a vote of its commissioners and its rate payers to
 19:11:45 4 determine whether they want to fluoridate, or whether
 19:11:50 5 fluoridation made any sense at all from the standpoint of
 19:11:53 6 legal liability. So understand, my comments come from
 19:11:57 7 that posture.

19:11:58 8 First of all, you're going to probably hear some

19:12:02 9 remarks tonight from both sides, and I think that we can
19:12:06 10 agree that there are no cases that would provide any
19:12:12 11 specific precedent for a county Board of Health to direct
19:12:17 12 a PUD to fluoridate.

19:12:19 13 There are cases -- most recent case having to do
19:12:24 14 with fluoridation was the Parkland case from 2004 in which
19:12:32 15 the Supreme Court determined that water districts could
19:12:38 16 not be ordered to fluoridate their water because they had
19:12:45 17 the discretion themselves. They have an exclusive
19:12:50 18 authority, or at least a full authority, according to the
19:12:53 19 majority in the Parkland case, to determine whether or not
19:12:57 20 the water district is to be fluoridated.

19:13:00 21 There's an older case called Kaul, from about 1954,
19:13:05 22 which has to do with fluoridation by a city utility and
19:13:10 23 whether the city utility could be ordered to fluoridate.

19:13:14 24 This situation we have here is neither of those
19:13:18 25 situations. It stands on its own.

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19:13:20 1 Now, first, you have to understand that health
19:13:28 2 departments have broad police powers to pass resolutions
19:13:34 3 and ordinances for the public health, and you're going to
19:13:38 4 hear specifically what their role is under RCW 70.05, but
19:13:46 5 that's where the Board of Health gets its authority. It
19:13:49 6 has the authority to enforce state public health statutes,
19:13:53 7 it has authority to enact local rules; and it has the
19:13:55 8 authority, among other things, to control dangerous,
19:14:00 9 contagious, and infectious disease.

19:14:03 10 And that's kind of -- that last provision is where
19:14:06 11 the thought that the Board of Health can order
19:14:10 12 fluoridation comes from because of testimony which you'll
19:14:15 13 hear tonight, that dental caries or dental tooth decay is
19:14:19 14 a contagious disease of some seriousness.

19:14:22 15 Now, I'm not here to take a position one way or the
19:14:26 16 other. I'm here to express the positions that you may
19:14:31 17 hear tonight with regards to why the Board of Health is in
19:14:34 18 a position, perhaps, to order the PUD to fluoridate.

19:14:41 19 Water districts -- and they're the ones who were
19:14:44 20 involved in the Parkland case -- they are local, optional
19:14:51 21 entities that are controlled entirely by the counties in
19:14:55 22 which they reside.

19:14:57 23 PUDs are not the same type of entity. PUDs are a
19:15:01 24 state entity created by the legislature. They are
19:15:09 25 municipal -- municipality, just like a county, and

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19:15:09 1 probably were you to make a hierarchy of some sort, they
19:15:14 2 would be on the same level of the hierarchy as a county.
19:15:17 3 In other words, it's not clear that the county or the
19:15:22 4 Board of Health has any more authority over a PUD or even
19:15:25 5 has equal authority over a PUD that it might have over a
19:15:29 6 water district.

19:15:29 7 You understand, water districts are created by
19:15:32 8 county commissions, and, on the other hand, a PUD has
19:15:38 9 authority -- may have authority beyond its county borders.
19:15:45 10 So you would have projects that PUDs typically engage in
19:15:46 11 and water storage where they may assume jurisdiction over
19:15:53 12 water that's outside the county in which they operate.

19:15:55 13 Once again, cities are certainly allowed to -- by
19:15:59 14 law, to order their city utilities to fluoridate. We
19:16:04 15 don't have any, other than Anacortes here, who are in that
19:16:10 16 position. None of the other cities have city utilities
19:16:13 17 which they could order on a more local basis to
19:16:18 18 fluoridate.

19:16:22 19 From the perspective of what would be the safest on
19:16:28 20 a legal basis for the county Board of Health to do, the
19:16:33 21 safest option for them, from a legal standpoint, to avoid
19:16:38 22 the probability of a lawsuit would be to do nothing, to
19:16:43 23 make no recommendations, to take no action. And in that
19:16:48 24 case, there would be little that could be done, either by
19:16:55 25 the proponents of fluoridation to force the Board of

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19:16:58 1 Health to pass a resolution, nor would there be any
 19:17:03 2 ability or reason for the opponents of fluoridation to
 19:17:06 3 bring an action against the county to prevent fluoridation
 19:17:10 4 to take place.

19:17:13 5 So, frankly, if I'm here to advise the Board of
 19:17:15 6 Health as far as what will provide them the least amount
 19:17:18 7 of hassle, it's going to be to do nothing. Now, that's
 19:17:22 8 certainly not a given at this point. As Chairman Munks
 19:17:26 9 already indicated, we're still in an evolving sense here
 19:17:30 10 of what we plan to do.

19:17:32 11 One of the options would also be to direct the PUD
 19:17:36 12 to fluoridate.

19:17:38 13 There will be arguments, if that were the case,
 19:17:43 14 that -- first of all, that the Board of Health doesn't
 19:17:47 15 have the authority to do that under state law, and there's
 19:17:50 16 some arguments that would support that. Frankly, when
 19:17:58 17 the -- in 1987, there was an attorney general's opinion
 19:18:03 18 where they indicated that it was up to cities or counties
 19:18:12 19 to direct water districts to fluoridate.

19:18:15 20 The state legislature met in 1988 and determined
 19:18:19 21 that the state legislature would decide and direct and
 19:18:23 22 give water districts the permissive authority to
 19:18:29 23 fluoridate. And the reason that was done, when you read
 19:18:34 24 the House bill report, was there were some lawyers --
 19:18:38 25 staff lawyers at the legislative level that felt the

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19:18:44 1 counties didn't have the authority to direct water
 19:18:47 2 districts to fluoridate and that it should come from the
 19:18:50 3 legislature.

19:18:51 4 They have not done the same thing, and they could
 19:18:54 5 have done the same thing, so it's not clear what the
 19:18:57 6 expectation is of the state government in terms of what
 19:19:02 7 authority the local health board has.

19:19:04 8 The other alternative that the Board of Health could
 19:19:07 9 take would be to pass a resolution doing precisely what

19:19:11 10 the state legislature did with water districts when it
19:19:15 11 amended RCW 57.08 back in 1988, and that would be to pass
19:19:21 12 a resolution making it permissive with the PUD to
19:19:25 13 fluoridate based on a majority vote of its board and/or a
19:19:30 14 majority board of the rate payers. That would place it
19:19:37 15 squarely within the PUD's jurisdiction and, frankly, would
19:19:44 16 place the decision -- I mean, were the board to pass a
19:19:48 17 resolution like that -- and would remove some of the
19:19:51 18 arguments that ordering -- for the Board of Health to
19:19:56 19 order the PUD to fluoridate would be, in effect, passing a
19:20:00 20 tax that the rate payers didn't have an opportunity to
19:20:04 21 vote on. Because if it were done at the PUD level, then
19:20:07 22 that would be something that the rate payers themselves
19:20:10 23 would have an opportunity to vote on, because certainly
19:20:13 24 the issue here -- one of the issues you're going to hear
19:20:15 25 talked about is, it costs money to fluoridate.

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19:20:18 1 And while there's been a generous offer by the
19:20:23 2 Washington Dental Services Foundation for this project for
19:20:27 3 up-front money, there will be recurring expenses that I
19:20:32 4 can't speak for in terms of annual cost of fluoridation,
19:20:35 5 which is one of the things that the board is checking into
19:20:39 6 right now.

19:20:39 7 So those are the various issues that the board has
19:20:43 8 asked me to take a look at. As you can tell, there's no
19:20:48 9 strong direction one way or the other at this point.
19:20:51 10 That's why the board has solicited comments from the
19:20:59 11 public.

12 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Okay. Thank you. Long
13 and short of all that is: We're not ready to make a
19:21:05 14 decision.

19:21:08 15 With that, what I would ask as people come forward,
19:21:08 16 if you'll give your name for the record. We're going to
19:21:14 17 ask everybody to come up to this microphone over here,
19:21:17 18 state your name clearly for the record, your address, and
19:21:21 19 then give us your comments. We're going to ask that you

19:21:24 20 keep your comments brief, please.
19:21:27 21 Like I said before, this is the beginning meeting.
19:21:31 22 We have had a couple little discussions about this. This
19:21:33 23 is the beginning meeting of this issue. There are going
19:21:37 24 to be several other issues.
19:21:39 25 If you don't want to speak and you want to just

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19:21:42 1 submit something in writing, that's fine too. And you can
19:21:47 2 submit something even after this meeting's over with. So
19:21:54 3 you don't -- everybody doesn't have to come to the mike.
19:21:58 4 You can submit it in writing. And that carries just as
19:22:02 5 much weight as if you stand up here in front of us and
19:22:05 6 talk.

19:22:07 7 With that, we're going to go ahead and start.
19:22:12 8 Again, I ask everybody to be respectful of both sides of
19:22:18 9 the issue. We're going to give two minutes apiece. I
19:22:31 10 realize there are going to be some that might run a little
19:22:34 11 bit over, but we're going to hold that to a minimum.
19:22:41 12 There might be some that will run under.

19:22:41 13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We have 50 that are
19:22:43 14 signed up, so let's try to give everybody a chance.

19:22:47 15 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Watch the timer up here.
19:22:50 16 Green light says begin. Yellow light says you have a
19:22:54 17 minute. And red light says, please end.

19:22:58 18 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: And I'll read off the
19:23:00 19 names, and I apologize beforehand if I make any mistakes
19:23:06 20 on your name. If I'm not sure, I'll give the address for
19:23:07 21 clarification. I'm going to read two names so that the
19:23:10 22 second person can be ready to come up right away. That
19:23:14 23 way, it will give you more time for everybody --

19:23:20 24 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Or as he reads the second
19:23:20 25 name, please come on up and stand by the podium.

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19:23:25 1 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: First, we have Bud
19:23:25 2 Strom and then we have Christine Johnson.

19:23:43 3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Bud Strom from Anacortes.
19:23:46 4 I didn't know I was going to be the lead-off hitter, but
19:23:50 5 here I am. I kind of like that role.

19:23:50 6 I'm unique as a speaker because I wore two hats when
19:23:59 7 fluoridation was put in Anacortes. I was a practicing
19:24:00 8 dentist from 1951 until 1962, when we introduced it to the
19:24:05 9 water system, so I saw hands-on the cases that were before
19:24:08 10 me and recognized a tremendous need for some kind of
19:24:12 11 preventive medicine that we could take care of these kids'
19:24:16 12 teeth.

19:24:17 13 We introduced it after I served on the council. And
19:24:20 14 of all things, here I am a budding dentist, just starting
19:24:22 15 in practice, and I get the opportunity to run for the city
19:24:27 16 council. And I won.

19:24:28 17 So now I'm a political person. I am now involved in
19:24:32 18 making directions for our community, as a council person.
19:24:34 19 What a beautiful combination, because I was in love with
19:24:37 20 the fluoridation. We'd heard about it and read about it,
19:24:41 21 but we didn't have a lab next door like you folks got with
19:24:44 22 Anacortes.

23 We've been there, since 1962 with fluoride in our
19:24:45 24 water. You can run over and drink our water and see us
19:24:49 25 and talk to us and see what kind of results they were.

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19:24:51 1 Our council went ahead and passed it. We went to
19:24:56 2 vote after that because a new council came in. They
19:24:59 3 thought, Well, let's have a mandate of the people, and
19:25:03 4 they went for it. So ever since '62, we've had water
19:25:09 5 fluoridated, and it's wonderful.

19:25:11 6 I also served with a number of the dentists that
7 volunteered over there to have what we call the follow-up.
19:25:12 8 A DMF rate is the decay of missing or filled teeth.

19:25:15 9 For five-year intervals and ten-year intervals, we

19:25:17 10 went back to those same patients in the schools and looked
19:25:19 11 and saw what kind of results we were getting. A totally
19:25:24 12 different type of dentistry.

19:25:26 13 I was building space retainers, which is what you
19:25:30 14 put in to fill kids' teeth when their teeth fall out
15 prematurely to hold the space open for the permanent
19:25:34 16 teeth. I thought I was going to be a welder because I had
19:25:37 17 a spot welder and that's what I did most of the time. I
19:25:40 18 threw -- or gave my spot welder away. We don't have that
19:25:44 19 anymore. We don't need it over there anymore because now
19:25:48 20 we have fluoride in our water.

19:25:49 21 Why don't you take what we've proven works
19:25:52 22 wonderfully, and you can have it over here for 11 cents a
19:25:55 23 month. I mean, that's, like, nothing.

24 I don't know what to say other than the fact -- I
19:25:59 25 can say one thing to the commissioners, I ran for office

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19:26:02 1 for 30 years in Anacortes, elective office. I never lost
19:26:07 2 an election after I put fluoride in the water. So for
19:26:13 3 what I'd done, they voted me in. Don't worry about how
4 they're going to react to you because you put fluoride in
19:26:17 5 the water.

19:26:20 6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He has peer-reviewed science
19:26:22 7 to back up what he's saying. We'll trust you. Take your
19:26:28 8 word for it.

19:26:30 9 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: Now we have Christine
19:26:32 10 Johnson; then Linda Brown.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Christine Johnson from
19:26:36 12 Sedro-Woolley. I'm a dentist. Good evening,
19:26:37 13 Commissioners. Tonight I'm here to urge you to fluoridate
19:26:41 14 our water because I know it is a safe and effective way to
19:26:45 15 prevent cavities for both children and adults. So
19:26:48 16 fluoridation shouldn't happen just because I know it's a
19:26:50 17 good thing. It should happen because it has widespread
19:26:53 18 community support, and it has that support here in Skagit
19:26:55 19 County.

19:26:56 20 It's very significant that both our local medical
19:26:59 21 and dental societies support fluoridation, but they are
19:27:04 22 not alone.

23 After presentations on water fluoridation by local
19:27:10 24 dentists, physicians, and others, 26 local service clubs,
19:27:12 25 businesses, hospital, and political groups gave it their

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19:27:15 1 strong support. These groups include Burlington Rotary,
19:27:18 2 Mount Vernon Kiwanis, both of our local hospital boards,
19:27:22 3 Janicki Industries, and the Skagit County Republican
4 party.

19:27:26 5 Equally as important is the strong support
19:27:30 6 fluoridation has from individuals in our community. I
19:27:32 7 personally know many people who are very excited about
19:27:35 8 this opportunity. Many of them have written you letters
19:27:39 9 voicing their support and many of them are here tonight
19:27:41 10 showing their support.

19:27:42 11 People get even more excited when they learn an oral
19:27:46 12 health foundation is willing to pay for the major expense
19:27:51 13 of buying and installing the needed equipment. "Manna
19:27:55 14 from heaven" and "we'd be crazy not to do this now," are
15 just a couple of the comments I've heard.

19:28:00 16 Two-thirds of our country, over 160 million people,
19:28:04 17 already enjoy the benefits of optimally fluoridated water,
19:28:09 18 and they include Anacortes; Everett; Lynden; Seattle; and
19:28:12 19 even tiny, remote Forks over on the Olympic peninsula.

19:28:19 20 Now is the time for you to listen to the majority in
19:28:21 21 our community and support this and direct the PUD to
19:28:25 22 fluoridate our water. We've waited long enough. We, too,
19:28:29 23 deserve healthy mouths and freedom from the pain,
19:28:33 24 suffering, and expense caused by cavities. Thank you.

19:28:38 25 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: After Linda Brown, we

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have Roger Kisner.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Dr. Linda Brown, Anacortes. 4406 San Juan Avenue, Anacortes. I'm the immediate past president of the Skagit Island Medical Society, and I'm here on behalf of the board and our 200 members whose majority supports this resolution. We've met with the Mount Baker Medical Society on February 8th.

Together we are -- supported and signed a joint resolution that is sort of the basis of the fluoridation issue for the PUD here. Many of us already enjoy the fruits of fluoridation, living in Anacortes and other parts of this area. However, we've banded together. We feel this is important and efficacious and it helps the health of our community, and we are here standing behind them. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: After Roger Kisner, we have John Erbstoezer.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Roger Kisner. I've practiced dentistry for 30 years, 20 in California and last 10 years in Anacortes. I retired some time ago. I have some thoughts about fluoride in the drinking water and dental decay.

The first one is that before my children were born we used well water, and my wife started taking fluoride when she was pregnant. We continued with the fluoride

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tablets for many years while the enamel on the children's teeth were forming. Today, at ages 34 and 36, my two kids have no decay, no fillings.

Some time ago one of the dentists in practice who specialized in children's dentistry, who practiced in Oak Harbor, was going to move his office. I told him that since there was no children's dentist, he should move to Anacortes, and he said that he liked the town but he couldn't do it because it was too difficult to establish a successful practice in a town with fluoridated water.

19:30:42 11 In our office, it was easy to notice the kids that
19:30:46 12 had fluoridated water because they have no decay; versus
19:30:51 13 the kids who lived in Anacortes or places with well water,
19:30:55 14 lots of decay.

19:30:58 15 It's my opinion --

19:31:02 16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Sir, could you raise
19:31:05 17 the mike up so --

19:31:08 18 MR. KISNER: I'm sorry, sir.

19:31:10 19 In my opinion and experience, fluoridation works. I
19:31:12 20 feel it's essential for dental health. Thank you very
19:31:14 21 much.

19:31:18 22 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: After John Erbstoezer,
19:31:21 23 we have Julia Weinberg.

19:31:24 24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Dr. John
19:31:25 25 Erbstoezer, 217 East Division, Mount Vernon, Washington.

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19:31:34 1 I've been a practicing family physician here in
19:31:39 2 Mount Vernon for over 30 years. I'm also representing the
19:31:41 3 medical community of this county.

19:31:43 4 As alluded to earlier, in February of this year, the
19:31:49 5 Skagit Island County Medical Society joined with the Mount
19:31:50 6 Baker Dental Society to discuss the fluoride issue and
19:31:54 7 unanimously passed a resolution urging you to, quote,
19:31:54 8 adopt a fluoridation ordinance that would allow and
19:31:58 9 require the Skagit PUD to adjust the natural level of
10 fluoride in its water supply, unquote.

19:32:02 11 As alluded to earlier, after this there were
19:32:06 12 numerous meetings with various representatives of the
19:32:11 13 community providing additional support to this issue, and
19:32:16 14 as indicated, over 26 local organizations have recommended
19:32:23 15 action and supported this issue.

19:32:25 16 As a practicing physician, every day I have to make
19:32:30 17 judgments about the best course of action to protect and
19:32:34 18 improve the health of my patients. In order to do this, I
19:32:37 19 have to keep abreast of existing and emerging science
19:32:40 20 about the health effects of a whole range of medicines

19:32:41 21 that I tell people to take, their side effects, and their
19:32:46 22 safety. I am hardly ever in a position to recommend a
23 course of treatment where there's over 60 years of
19:32:50 24 experience on over 160 million people.

19:32:51 25 This is true with fluoridation. We do have over 60

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19:32:56 1 years of experience in this country and over 160 million
19:33:02 2 Americans telling us it makes their teeth stronger,
19:33:06 3 reduces cavities, and does no harm to health.

19:33:09 4 The medical community of this county is united in
19:33:12 5 its belief that this measure will improve dental health
19:33:15 6 and not have negative health effects.

19:33:17 7 This evening's hearing is an important part of your
19:33:20 8 process. We respect you for listening to everyone here
19:33:24 9 tonight. As your constituents, we hope you'll find the
19:33:28 10 courage to consider all sides, review the scientific
19:33:30 11 facts, and make a judgment and act on this important
19:33:35 12 issue.

19:33:36 13 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: David Warren --

19:33:42 14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Commissioner, can we have
19:33:45 15 some balance for not --

19:33:46 16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We will, sir.

19:33:48 17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Julia Weinberg. I
19:33:49 18 am a practicing registered nurse up here at one of the
19:33:51 19 local hospitals here in Mount Vernon, and I am also a
19:33:54 20 member of District 16 Nurses Association, who is an
19:33:56 21 affiliate of the Washington State Nurses Association, for
19:33:59 22 which my president, Sally Herman, is here presently.

19:34:03 23 As a practicing registered nurse, I work in the
19:34:07 24 post-anesthesia care unit of the hospital and I see,
25 daily, children who are from the age of one to four,

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19:34:14 1 sometimes five years old, who have to have one to two
19:34:18 2 hours of general anesthesia in order to have their dental
19:34:22 3 problems fixed within the operating room.

19:34:24 4 This is very uncomfortable. It's very traumatizing.
19:34:28 5 It's very frightening for children. It shouldn't need to
19:34:32 6 happen. If fluoridation is one of those things that will
19:34:35 7 help to prevent this kind of cavity formation and help to
19:34:40 8 make teeth healthier for Skagit County, then I think we
19:34:44 9 need to do this, and I urge you to make that decision and
19:34:50 10 let's get it done. Thank you so much.

19:34:53 11 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: After Mr. Warren, we
19:34:55 12 have Larry Brewster.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners.
19:34:58 14 My name is David Warren. I'm president of the Northwest
19:35:01 15 Washington Central Labor Council, 1700 State Street,
19:35:04 16 Bellingham, Washington.

19:35:04 17 I'm here tonight to let you know -- I'm speaking on
19:35:09 18 behalf of 7,000 union members of Skagit County that
19:35:15 19 overwhelmingly supported the issue of fluoridation. We
19:35:18 20 chose, after reviewing it and talking to about everybody
19:35:21 21 we could talk to, to believe the overwhelming science
19:35:26 22 behind fluoridation, science that is supported and backed
19:35:30 23 by overwhelming competent medical jurisdictions and
19:35:33 24 authorities clear across the United States.

19:35:33 25 We also see this as an access to a health care

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19:35:36 1 issues. We have literally thousands of children, adults,
19:35:42 2 seniors who would benefit from a fluoride initiative in
19:35:47 3 Skagit County that don't have access to quality or any
19:35:49 4 kind of decent dental care at all.

19:35:53 5 And the issue I think I would like to ask you to
19:35:56 6 look at as you review the science and the pros and cons of
19:35:59 7 all this, and one of the very important things we looked
19:36:03 8 at, how has Anacortes fared with this after all these
19:36:09 9 years? Overwhelmingly positive.

19:36:11 10 How has Lynden fared with this after all these

19:36:13 11 years? Overwhelmingly positive. How has Everett, how has
19:36:16 12 Seattle, how has 70 percent of this nation and all of
19:36:20 13 these cities fared with the fluoride initiative?
19:36:27 14 Overwhelmingly positive. It is a good thing for people,
19:36:30 15 and I urge you to support it.

19:36:31 16 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: Karen Parnell after
19:36:33 17 Mr. Brewster.

19:36:36 18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Larry Brewster. I
19:36:38 19 live at 3906 Q Avenue, Anacortes.

19:36:42 20 My interest in this is, oh, as a common citizen.
19:36:47 21 I'm not going to try to stop facts and figures. You can
19:36:52 22 have access to all of that that you need, but I would urge
19:36:55 23 that you really think about it. The experience that I
19:37:01 24 have had with my children and grandchildren since I've
19:37:04 25 lived Anacortes, since 1949, has been positive. And I

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19:37:10 1 would recommend that you think very seriously about
19:37:14 2 recommending it.

19:37:15 3 Thank you.

19:37:16 4 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

19:37:22 5 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: Alex Sandoval after
19:37:24 6 Karen Parnell.

19:37:26 7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners.
19:37:27 8 I am Karen Parnell, deputy director of Skagit County
19:37:32 9 Community Action Agency. Although I live in Anacortes at
19:37:37 10 2301 29th Street, I am speaking on behalf of Community
19:37:40 11 Action and for the many clients we serve.

19:37:43 12 We have been in the area serving the needs of
19:37:47 13 low-income people for the past 25 years. We serve over
19:37:52 14 20,000 people each year with many major programs, one
19:37:55 15 being a mobile dental van. We have a large book program,
19:38:01 16 many other programs that bring in large numbers of
19:38:04 17 families into us.

19:38:05 18 We have heard the requests for many referrals for
19:38:09 19 dental pain and dental repair that we could not cover in
19:38:15 20 any way. In 1998, we were able to partner with the health

19:38:20 21
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department and Northwest Medical team and bring in a mobile dental van up to our county four days a month. This hardly scratches the top of a pin's needle in terms of the need out there.

We do a needs' assessment every four years. We have

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just completed a needs' assessment. We have surveyed over 550 families and I'd like to cite some of the information we found out.

Of these, 44 percent reported getting needed dental care has been a major problem for someone in their household. Additionally, 16 percent of households lack dental insurance for their children. Of those families that needed dental services and were not able to get them, 75 percent did not do anything, did not get that service. 10 percent went to the ER.

It is a dental health access problem. It is also an issue of being able to be self-sufficient and face the workforce with a job and a smile. I urge you to take these measures to bring fluoridation to our county so that many of these patient that we see come through our doors will not have to continue with us. As the years go on, they will be able to be like many of those of us in Anacortes.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: Alex Sandoval.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: May I please ask if the sign-up sheet is circulating. We came on time, and I was never offered the sign-in sheet.

COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Is Alex here?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

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COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: Norm Bunch.
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19:40:31 2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Norm
19:40:34 3 Bunch. I'm a pediatric dentist at the Kulshan Pediatric
19:40:37 4 Dentistry. I have been practicing in Mount Vernon for the
19:40:40 5 last two years.

19:40:41 6 I would just like to say, from a child's
19:40:46 7 perspective, they shouldn't have to have as much pain and
19:40:48 8 suffering that I see in Skagit County due to dental
19:40:51 9 disease. I have seen many two and three year olds with
19:40:57 10 swollen faces that have difficulty sleeping at night, and
19:40:58 11 I think something like water fluoridation would bring a
19:41:02 12 lot more joy to their lives than having to deal with
19:41:07 13 painful dental problems.

19:41:08 14 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: You mentioned that you
19:41:11 15 practice in Mount Vernon, but where do you live?

19:41:12 16 MR. BUNCH: I just moved to Mukilteo.

19:41:18 17 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: We have had ten people
19:41:21 18 that have come forward and given testimony for
19:41:24 19 fluoridation. I'd like to see a show of hands of those
19:41:28 20 against fluoridation.

19:41:32 21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Comply.)

19:41:34 22 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: We have no way on this
19:41:35 23 sign-up of sheet of knowing whether you're for or against
19:41:43 24 or whatever. So what we're going to do is -- to try to
25 keep it balanced, is we'll do ten that are for and then

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19:41:43 1 we'll do ten that are against. So what I would ask is
19:41:45 2 those that are against, start coming towards the
19:41:48 3 microphone. Give us your name. We'll do ten that are
19:41:51 4 against, and then we'll go back the other way.

19:41:57 5 COMMISSIONER DAHLSTEDT: Maybe just for
19:41:59 6 clarification, normally we just go in the order of people
19:42:02 7 signing up, not whether they're for or against any issue,
19:42:05 8 and nothing on here says whether you're for or against it.
19:42:09 9 We've been trying to be fair. We're just going through
19:42:13 10 the list.

19:42:15 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Commissioners. Hi. My name
Page 19

19:42:16 12 is Barb Ferguson. I have lived in Anacortes for 50 years,
19:42:21 13 and now I'm a new resident of Mount Vernon. I'm against
19:42:26 14 fluoridation.

19:42:26 15 I don't feel the science is behind what's being
19:42:30 16 said. I have five children. They were born and raised in
19:42:34 17 Anacortes in a low-income part of town, low-income
19:42:39 18 families next door, both sides. I spent a lot of time
19:42:43 19 trying to educate neighbors on proper oral hygiene and
19:42:48 20 food. To this day I still have contact with both those
19:42:50 21 families. Their children have very bad teeth, rotten
19:42:56 22 teeth, teeth are missing. My children's teeth are fine.

19:42:59 23 The difference is health. A healthy body will not
19:43:03 24 have dental care issues. Brushing their teeth, good food,
19:43:08 25 and flossing and doing what you can. We were low income.

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19:43:11 1 We didn't have dental insurance or anything like that. It
19:43:17 2 all starts with what you feed your kids.

19:43:20 3 It doesn't matter how much fluoride is in the water
19:43:21 4 if all you're doing is feeding your kids Kool-Aid. It
19:43:24 5 doesn't work. It has to start with good health. When
19:43:30 6 you're breast-feeding, there's a certain amount of
19:43:34 7 fluoride in breast milk. Why should we have a lot more in
19:43:38 8 fluoridated water. I really don't think it's good for us.

19:43:42 9 Thanks.

19:43:43 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Carl Yaegel. I
19:43:45 11 live in Mount Vernon. I'm certainly not an expert on
19:43:50 12 fluoride, but I have been doing my homework and I think
19:43:53 13 the risks outweigh the advantages.

19:43:57 14 As recently as August 5th, the Washington Post and
19:43:59 15 The Wall Street Journal reported that the EPA scientists
19:44:04 16 were asking for a moratorium on fluoride based on a study
19:44:08 17 by a Harvard School of Dental Medicine doctor, Elise
19:44:11 18 Bassin, linking fluoride to osteosarcoma, bone cancer, in
19:44:17 19 young boys. They also asked for an investigation into an
19:44:22 20 alleged coverup of these findings, as this report had come
19:44:27 21 out in 2001.

19:44:29 22 On a personal level, I have met a woman that is
19:44:33 23 allergic to fluoride and another whose daughter died from
19:44:40 24 osteosarcoma after having a series of fluoride treatments.
19:44:42 25 My own daughter spent all but the last two years of

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19:44:45 1 her 38 years living in Seattle, drinking fluoridated water
19:44:48 2 that's been in Seattle since January of 1970. She has
19:44:53 3 dental fluorosis, many fillings, recently has cracked a
19:44:57 4 tooth, and her four-year-old daughter, my granddaughter,
19:45:02 5 also has signs of fluorosis.

19:45:06 6 None of this leads me to agree with the proponents'
19:45:09 7 claims of a safe and effect fluoride in our water. To
19:45:14 8 place fluoride in our water takes away my choice of whether
19:45:17 9 I want it or not. I can't take it out of the water, but
19:45:21 10 you can choose to have fluoride treatments today without
19:45:25 11 having it in my water.

19:45:27 12 In light of all the controversy around fluoride, I
19:45:30 13 think it would be a social and political mistake to ask
19:45:34 14 the PUD to fluoridate our water. I think a bigger thing
19:45:37 15 to do would be try and get the soda pops and sweet drinks
19:45:42 16 out of our schools and away from our kids.

19:45:46 17 Thank you.

19:45:47 18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Barbara Paul. I
19:45:50 19 live in Mount Vernon. I have two kids. And I have a
19:45:55 20 Chinese medicine clinic in Mount Vernon, so I deal on a
19:46:03 21 daily basis with people that are exposed to environmental
19:46:06 22 toxins.

19:46:07 23 Fluoride is a mineral, but it is very toxic in too
19:46:13 24 high quantities. If we have a high seafood diet which is
19:46:16 25 high in fluoride and we add fluoridated toothpaste and we

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19:46:21 1 get fluoride from the dentist as well, when do we know

19:46:25 2 that we're getting too much? Now, if we're going to add
19:46:29 3 it to the water as well, then we can potentially have
19:46:34 4 toxic levels of fluoride that we're ingesting on a daily
19:46:39 5 basis.

19:46:40 6 Let us have this as a choice issue. If somebody
19:46:47 7 would like to have the fluoride and the benefits of the
19:46:50 8 fluoride as far as the dentists are concerned, you can
19:46:53 9 take it orally. But let us not add it to the water where
19:46:58 10 we have no choice whatsoever.

19:47:01 11 People that are allergic, people that have
19:47:05 12 osteoporosis -- because there have been studies done,
19:47:08 13 there are several books out on the issue of the toxicity
19:47:13 14 of fluoride in too high quantities causing osteoporosis
19:47:18 15 and causing blotching of the teeth. I think it will be
19:47:23 16 important to study this very carefully before you start
19:47:28 17 adding fluoride to the water.

19:47:29 18 In Europe, most of the European counties have chosen
19:47:34 19 not to add fluoride to their water because of those
19:47:38 20 reasons and 70 communities in America, too, have also
19:47:43 21 chosen not to do that. I think that it is not an issue of
19:47:46 22 life and death, but if it causes a problem for your
19:47:54 23 health, let us look at that very carefully because you
19:47:56 24 can -- if you want to have fluoride, you can take it.

19:48:00 25 So I would appreciate it that this be researched

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19:48:04 1 very carefully before you make a decision to add fluoride
19:48:09 2 to our water.

19:48:10 3 Thank you very much.

19:48:14 4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Cheryl
19:48:17 5 Harrison, and I live in Clear Lake. I strongly oppose the
19:48:22 6 fluoridation of public water supplies. I believe the
19:48:25 7 risks of such an action far outweigh the purported
19:48:30 8 benefits.

19:48:30 9 Fluoridation's role in the decline of tooth decay
19:48:35 10 has not been proven to be significant. The largest survey
19:48:40 11 ever conducted in the United States showed little

19:48:43 12 difference in tooth decay among children in fluoridated
19:48:45 13 and nonfluoridated communities. This study was conducted
19:48:48 14 by the National Institute of Dental Research, and it
19:48:55 15 involved over 39,000 children in 84 communities.

16 Leading dental researchers and the Centers for
19:48:57 17 Disease Control and Prevention are now acknowledging that
19:49:00 18 fluoride's benefits are mainly received through topical
19:49:05 19 application, not systemic. The risks of fluoride are
19:49:10 20 systemic. It makes more sense to deliver fluoride
19:49:13 21 directly to the tooth in the form of toothpaste or topical
19:49:16 22 treatments at the dentist's office.

19:49:18 23 Since dental decay is more commonly found in the
19:49:24 24 poorer population, why not spend the money on providing
19:49:28 25 topical fluoride treatments to this county's children and

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19:49:30 1 elderly who are unable to afford the treatments
2 themselves.

19:49:35 3 There's no reason to force people against their will
19:49:35 4 to drink fluoride in their water supply. Fluoride is a
19:49:38 5 cumulative poison. Only 50 percent of the fluoride that
19:49:42 6 one would ingest is excreted through the kidneys. The
19:49:48 7 remainder accumulates in the bones and the renal glands and
19:49:51 8 other tissues.

19:49:53 9 According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and the
19:49:54 10 Disease Registry, the elderly, diabetics, and people with
19:49:59 11 poor kidney functions are particularly vulnerable to
19:50:01 12 fluoride's toxic effects. Also, some people appear to be
19:50:05 13 highly sensitive to fluoride.

19:50:06 14 Once fluoride is put in the water, it's impossible
19:50:10 15 to control the dose each individual receives. Manual
19:50:14 16 laborers, athletes, and diabetics, for example, drink more
19:50:21 17 water than others. We also receive fluoride from sources
19:50:27 18 other than the water supply.

19 Fluoride is not an essential nutrient. No disease
19:50:30 20 has ever been linked to fluoride deficiency. People can
19:50:32 21 have good oral health without fluoride. Fluoridation is

19:50:36 22 not necessary. Most western European countries do not
19:50:40 23 fluoridate their water and have experienced the same
19:50:44 24 decline in dental decay as the United States.

19:50:47 25 Fluoridation of the public water supply is

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19:50:48 1 unethical. Individuals are not being asked for their
19:50:53 2 informed consent prior to medication. Our public water
19:50:56 3 supply should be kept as clean and safe as possible and
19:51:00 4 not be tainted with questionable additives.

19:51:04 5 Thank you for your time and consideration on this
19:51:06 6 matter.

19:51:16 7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Emma Top from
19:51:18 8 Sedro-Woolley. My husband and I are dairy farmers. We're
19:51:24 9 very concerned about our dairy cows that drink water. I
10 was involved 25 years ago when we had a vote on this --
19:51:30 11 PUD and it was voted down. I was very active in it at
19:51:31 12 that time.

19:51:32 13 I see this as a fundamental issue of freedom. I
19:51:37 14 don't believe that we should be forced to have to drink
19:51:42 15 this water and have to try to find some other sources for
19:51:45 16 ourself. I think that's wrong. Other people can take it
19:51:50 17 if they want it.

19:51:50 18 I found -- I just -- I saw an advertisement for this
19:51:56 19 on TV (indicating). It's called Orajel Toddler Training
19:52:05 20 Toothpaste. I'd like to read what the label says.

21 "You'll love having your child brush with Orajel Toddler
19:52:09 22 Training Toothpaste because it helps clean teeth with a
19:52:13 23 special patented ingredient, Microdent. Best of all, it's
19:52:15 24 fluoride free, so it's safe to swallow. Swallowing too
19:52:19 25 much fluoride can cause fluorosis, or white spots, on the

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19:52:22 1 child's permanent teeth. This is especially important if
19:52:26 2 your child doesn't quite have the skill yet to spit out

19:52:31 3 all the toothpaste but yet loves to brush. Orajel Toddler
19:52:33 4 Training Toothpaste also does not foam and is
5 nonabrasive."

19:52:36 6 I submit to you that this doesn't make any sense.
19:52:39 7 Here you're saying it's not safe to swallow fluoride and
19:52:44 8 yet you want to put it in the water. Makes no sense to me
19:52:48 9 at all.

19:52:50 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Amen.

19:53:02 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Doris Deamud, and
19:53:04 12 I live in Mount Vernon. I certainly appreciate what many
19:53:08 13 people have said about diet and proper care of the teeth.
19:53:11 14 Fluoridation is not a panacea for no cavities, and in some
19:53:16 15 of the studies, it has been stated that only 25 percent is
19:53:20 16 gained through fluoridation, less cavities.

19:53:25 17 There have been communities in Washington state who
19:53:28 18 have turned down the fluoridation. Not every community
19:53:32 19 has gone for it. And I agree with the people who said
19:53:35 20 that the European nations have thought very carefully
19:53:40 21 about fluoridation and have turned it down because of the
19:53:43 22 toxic levels that can occur.

19:53:45 23 You would be -- the cattle, not only the cattle
19:53:51 24 would be getting this water that is fluoridated, all of
19:53:54 25 the people -- if you drank a gallon of water a day, what

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19:53:58 1 level is safe? And they're saying that for seniors, that
19:54:02 2 it can cause fractures in the hips. They have had studies
19:54:07 3 on that which were also hushed up. And seniors have
19:54:12 4 enough trouble with osteoarthritis, as you've probably
19:54:15 5 heard.

19:54:15 6 So you cannot -- If you don't teach your children
19:54:20 7 good habits as far as eating sweets and very poor school
19:54:24 8 lunches and they don't brush their teeth properly and
19:54:28 9 people want to think, oh, well, just because there's
19:54:31 10 fluoridation in the water, they should be fine, they don't
19:54:34 11 have to care for their teeth anymore. People are so lazy
19:54:40 12 sometimes that they don't want to teach their children

19:54:43 13 good healthy habits and a lot of that is the problem.

19:54:46 14 Many people run to ER if they can't afford medical
19:54:53 15 treatment and I think this might be one of the issues that
19:54:56 16 is -- that doctors and dentists are kind of wishing us to
19:55:00 17 support this because it's costing a lot of money to bring
19:55:05 18 people into ER, young people, where the parents aren't
19:55:09 19 caring for their teeth or they have no knowledge of proper
19:55:14 20 diet. So this education value and how children should eat
19:55:19 21 and take care of their teeth is very important.

22 I thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Doris, how do you spell
24 your last name?

25 MS. DEAMUD: It's D-, as in David, -E-A-M-U-D.

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19:55:35 1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Drew
19:55:37 2 Saunders, and I have been living in Skagit County for the
19:55:41 3 last half year. I've lived in Whatcom County for 15
19:55:45 4 years. They're trying to put fluoride in the water up
19:55:48 5 there too.

19:55:49 6 There's a man who did a ten-year investigative
19:55:51 7 report and he was not pro or con fluoride before he
19:55:53 8 started it. It's called the Fluoride Deception by
19:55:56 9 Christopher Bryson. I would be happy to submit it if
19:56:00 10 someone would read one chapter out of it.

19:56:00 11 I would consider it irresponsible of any authority
19:56:04 12 figure to make a decision so important as whether to put
19:56:08 13 fluoride, which is defined as a binary compound of
19:56:11 14 fluorene and another element, and fluorene right below it
15 in this dictionary, American Heritage dictionary, is
19:56:21 16 defined as a pale yellow highly corrosive, highly toxic
19:56:24 17 element. It's one of the most reactive, if not the most
19:56:28 18 reactive, elements on the elemental chart, meaning it has
19:56:32 19 a very unstable electron shell and it reacts with a
19:56:37 20 combination or all the rest of the elements.

19:56:38 21 It makes no sense to put -- on an eighth grade
19:56:42 22 chemistry level, to put the most reactive element into the

19:56:47 23 water. This man here, Christopher Bryson, explains very
19:56:49 24 succinctly, The Fluoride Deception, which, in this book,
19:56:51 25 unearths the mystery of how a grim workplace poison and

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19:56:56 1 the most damaging environmental pollutant was added to our
19:57:04 2 drinking water and toothpaste.

3 A chronicle of the abuse of power and of the
19:57:07 4 manufacture of state-sponsored medical propaganda, The
19:57:09 5 Fluoride Deception reveals how a secretive group of
19:57:14 6 powerful industries, all of which face extensive
19:57:17 7 litigation for fluoride pollution, collaborated with
19:57:22 8 officials from the National Institute of Dental Research
9 to launder fluoride's public image.

19:57:26 10 And to back that statement up right there, as you
19:57:29 11 haven't had many, if any, doctors come up here, all you
19:57:32 12 hear is anecdotal. Here is page after page of
19:57:37 13 peer-reviewed scientific published information. Has
19:57:41 14 anybody that's come up here with pro-fluoride submitted
19:57:44 15 any peer-reviewed scientific information?

19:57:49 16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No. No.

19:57:51 17 MR. SAUNDERS: Just to give you a few --
18 because I'm almost run out, if I haven't already. I
19:57:53 19 appreciate your patience -- a 1995 study in the Journal of
19:57:56 20 Neurotoxicology and Teratology found that fluoride
19:57:57 21 accumulated in the brain of rats produced age-specific
19:58:02 22 behavioral deficits typical of most neurotoxic agents. In
19:58:06 23 the study, fluoride induced damage to the hippocampal
19:58:09 24 region of the brain. Damage to the hippocampal region has
19:58:12 25 been linked to hyperactivity and cognitive deficits. I'm

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19:58:17 1 sure everyone's heard of ADD. When in doubt, you leave it
19:58:22 2 out. Please consider that.

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19:59:37 17
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Thanks. I'll just leave this over here.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is Greta Morgan. I live in Bow. I would like to comment on -- I'm wondering how long it's been in Skagit County, this movement for fluoride because I never noticed it before, and now it's in Whatcom County and it's in Skagit.

As you know, fluoride is the byproduct of mining and of chemical industry, so what if somebody needs to get rid of a byproduct or waste, and we are buying it? That's one question.

Second is, I'm a mother of two small children, so technically the target group, but we are not giving mandate to anybody to fluoride water for our children and children of friends that I spoke with because there are numerous opportunities to provide fluoride for children. It's toothpaste; it's pills; it's drops for even small babies, if you wish.

And the third thing that kind of puzzles me is, I certainly can relate to the frustration of the dentist and health care providers and the fluoride may help for -- it may be proven that it helps dental health, but, for instance, zinc may help fight cancer and oncologists are no less frustrated to meet their patients with new and new

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tumors. Will we put zinc in our water?

Lithium is known to affect brain chemistry and psychiatrists must be no less frustrated with their patients' health. Do we put lithium next time in water?

You know, there's numerous ways to pollute water or adulterate it, but our mission is to keep it as safe and as unadulterated.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Alice Sybrandy, and I live in Conway. I have 25 grandchildren and I know that we have problems with their teeth. But it's not the fault of you or you or over there. It's not the fault of

20:01:15 13 the water. It's our fault, or it is in our chemistry.
20:01:20 14 Whatever it is, it's not my problem to take care of your
20:01:24 15 children or your grandchildren.
20:01:26 16 It's morally wrong to put a drug in our water.
20:01:31 17 I have high blood pressure. There are millions of
20:01:34 18 people who have high blood pressure. Would you want to
20:01:37 19 put some high blood pressure medicine in the water,
20:01:41 20 please, so that everybody is prepared for the time that
20:01:45 21 they have high blood pressure?
20:01:47 22 It is morally wrong.
20:01:49 23 Thank you.
20:01:53 24 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: That was the tenth person
20:01:57 25 that was anti.

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20:01:58 1 What we're going to try to do now is I'll allow five
20:02:02 2 people that want to come on the list that speak for, and
20:02:06 3 then we'll allow five people against. We'll just keep
20:02:09 4 going until we get through everybody.
20:02:15 5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How about the ones that are
20:02:17 6 undecided?
20:02:18 7 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Are there some that have
20:02:23 8 questions they want to bring forward and ask?
9 DR. LEIBRAND: Howard Leibrand. I'm a Skagit
10 County Health Officer and I'm also a Skagit County medical
20:02:31 11 doctor. 19413 Mel Town Road.
20:02:35 12 Fluoride is a naturally occurring compound. It is
20:02:38 13 the 13th most common element in the world. 13th. It
20:02:44 14 doesn't mean it's unlucky; it means it's common. Skagit
20:02:49 15 River has a fluoride level of .2 parts per million.
20:02:54 16 Compare that to what we feel is the optimal level for
20:02:57 17 protecting teeth, and that's one part per million.
20:03:05 18 There's a huge natural experiment that's gone on for
20:03:12 19 years, much longer than 60 years. There are areas in the
20:03:14 20 United States that have fluoride in the water. Those
20:03:18 21 areas traditionally have much lower decay rates, and they
20:03:22 22 do not have higher rates of any known disease.

20:03:26 23 Tea, for example, contains four times as much
20:03:30 24 fluoride as the optimal level of fluoridated water. The
20:03:35 25 ocean contains about the same, just a little less than

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20:03:39 1 what's considered optimal fluoridated water.
20:03:43 2 It's not that we're introducing a medicine into your
20:03:47 3 water. It's not that we're introducing an industrial
20:03:53 4 contaminant.

20:03:53 5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, it is.

20:03:55 6 DR. LEIBRAND: Sodium, table salt, have you
20:03:58 7 ever seen elemental sodium? It's every bit as dangerous
20:04:03 8 as elemental fluoride.

20:04:09 9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Should we put salt in the
20:04:12 10 water?

20:04:15 11 DR. LEIBRAND: The gentleman in the back talked
20:04:15 12 about peer-reviewed research. The study that was
20:04:16 13 mentioned about osteosarcoma is not peer-reviewed
20:04:22 14 research. It's the work of a graduate student who did it
20:04:25 15 in 1991. She's never attempted to publish. It's never
20:04:31 16 been even put out on the Internet until recently. There
20:04:34 17 was no attempt for her to have her research peer-reviewed.
20:04:39 18 In fact, she admits that her research raises a problem but
20:04:44 19 there needs to be further studies done.

20:04:47 20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's exactly what we want
20:04:50 21 to do.

20:04:51 22 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Please. We have a speaker
20:04:54 23 up here. Decorum. No outbursts, please.

20:04:58 24 DR. LEIBRAND: The Internet is a terrible place
20:05:02 25 to go for information on things like this. It takes

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20:05:04 1 nothing, it takes no credibility to get something on the
20:05:07 2 Internet.

20:05:07 3 I bought a new car two years ago. Every place that
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20:05:10 4 I looked told me this car has the best repair record, best
20:05:15 5 customer satisfaction, best reliability. I went to the
20:05:19 6 Internet and found multiple sites where people were
20:05:25 7 dissatisfied with this car. They thought they had
20:05:28 8 purchased a lemon. There's a disconnect there. The same
20:05:29 9 thing happened -- aluminum cookware, how many people have
20:05:31 10 aluminum cookware in their house? You go on the Internet
20:05:33 11 and you find multiple sites that link it to Alzheimer's
20:05:38 12 disease.

20:05:38 13 I have a 49-page document here which was produced by
20:05:43 14 Rebecca Sullivan. She's a doctor in Tacoma, where they
20:05:48 15 are having the same controversy. It discusses all of the
20:05:52 16 research, and it comes to some conclusions about that
20:05:55 17 research that I think some of you will find surprising.
20:05:59 18 It's talking about peer-reviewed research. It's not
20:06:03 19 talking about a specific research study that showed what
20:06:07 20 you want it to show. It's talking about all of them.

20:06:11 21 And it shows that fluoride is effective. It shows
20:06:14 22 that fluoride is safe. Anybody that wants to address me
20:06:18 23 at the health department can get a copy of this, but I'm
20:06:21 24 going to give this copy to the gentleman in the back and
20:06:25 25 hopefully he will read it.

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20:06:26 1 This picture, there were some concern -- we have
20:06:30 2 gotten a lot of calls at the health department about this
20:06:32 3 picture. People are saying, "Why did you use a picture of
20:06:37 4 child abuse to get support for your cause." This is not
20:06:43 5 child abuse. If you think we have to use child abuse to
20:06:48 6 tell you about dental decay, you don't know anything about
20:06:48 7 dental decay. This is a young girl who has an abscessed
20:06:48 8 tooth that's spreading to her peri orbital area and she's
20:06:56 9 seriously ill because of it. If you think this is not
20:06:59 10 dental decay, then you don't know decay.

20:07:02 11 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Dr. Lei brand, go on and
12 finish.

20:07:08 13 DR. LEI BRAND: Thank you.
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20:07:11 14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Kirk Brownell.
20:07:13 15 I'm a physician in Skagit County. I live in Burlington.
20:07:21 16 I am on the medical executive committee at the hospital.
20:07:26 17 I work in the emergency department, and there is never a
20:07:30 18 shift where I don't see the results of poor dental hygiene
20:07:34 19 and decay.
20:07:35 20 I have six children of my own, and I hope that all
20:07:39 21 of them can enjoy the benefits of fluoride. As I have
20:07:44 22 done my own reading on the topic -- I don't purport to be
20:07:49 23 an expert on fluoride -- the sources I most frequently
20:07:54 24 turn to for information about any medical treatment I
20:07:58 25 would supply, among that, I cannot find any sort of

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20:08:03 1 significant detractor from using fluoride.
20:08:10 2 If I had to say one thing, I would say that in
20:08:18 3 medical decision-making, I like to boil it down to one of
20:08:21 4 two things. Basically, one can only choose which risk you
20:08:27 5 choose to take, and I think that it's clear, in my mind,
20:08:31 6 that the risk of not fluoridating the water to the
20:08:36 7 residents of the community far outweighs the risk of us
20:08:42 8 not (sic) doing it.
20:08:43 9 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.
20:08:53 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
20:08:55 11 Greg Reed. I'm a resident of Burlington. I'm also the
20:08:59 12 administrator for Sedro-Woolley's United General Hospital.
20:09:03 13 I would caution a broad brush on the word
20:09:07 14 "fluoride." As I look at the various studies that have
20:09:10 15 been provided to me by the pro and con, I find they vary
20:09:14 16 in what kind of fluoride compound they're talking about.
20:09:18 17 Some of these compounds are high toxic levels. But when
20:09:22 18 you look at some of the things like common salt, and you
20:09:27 19 heard it mentioned earlier about sodium fluoride, sodium
20:09:31 20 fluoride to a chemist is a salt -- if you want to talk
20:09:34 21 about eighth grade science -- and it's been in our
20:09:40 22 toothpaste since the 1950s. If it was, in fact, going to
20:09:43 23 have any great problem, I would have thought that would

20:09:48 24 have come to the surface by now and maybe at the very
20:09:51 25 least, we would all have a mouthful of cancer.

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1 The practicality is that we are an employer of a
20:09:55 2 significant number of people. We provide to those people
20:09:57 3 health benefits and dental benefits, and we seek out
20:10:01 4 alternatives to try to help them have better health. So I
20:10:05 5 would ask this commission and remember then that it's
20:10:10 6 calcium fluoride that's naturally found in the waters here
20:10:13 7 in this country that have no side effect, and that sodium
20:10:18 8 fluoride after 60 years of use in this country, have had
20:10:22 9 no side effect. And that all the others that the others
20:10:27 10 were talking about are the ones that we have to be
20:10:32 11 cautious about.

20:10:33 12 Thank you.

20:10:35 13 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: This will be the last for,
20:10:38 14 and then we'll have five that are opposed.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners.
20:10:45 16 My name is Faith Ireland, and I'm here on behalf of the
20:10:48 17 Washington Dental Service Foundation.

20:10:49 18 I am a retired Supreme Court justice, and in that
20:10:54 19 capacity, I know that it is difficult to make
20:10:59 20 controversial decisions. I have been there, and I
20:11:02 21 appreciate the significance of your role as you go about
20:11:06 22 this decision-making. I just want to respond to a few of
20:11:10 23 the legal points.

20:11:11 24 First of all, the state constitution gives to the
20:11:14 25 county and to its health board, which has the delegated

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20:11:17 1 duties to consider health issues, the authority to order
20:11:24 2 fluoridation of the water on behalf of the PUD.

20:11:26 3 The PUD is not a water district. The water district

20:11:29 4 is created by state statute and was pointed out by the
20:11:33 5 deputy prosecuting attorney. The situation in Parkland is
20:11:37 6 a different situation, distinguishable from the PUD.

20:11:42 7 The state health board has recognized the importance
20:11:45 8 of fluoridation and has endorsed it. The county
20:11:49 9 commissioners have the authority to fluoridate, if they
20:11:54 10 choose to exercise their authority.

20:11:56 11 The deputy prosecuting attorney suggested that
20:12:01 12 perhaps a do-nothing attitude would serve the county
20:12:05 13 commissioners; it would be the safest course of action,
20:12:09 14 but that is contrary to the Skagit County mission
20:12:14 15 statement which is stated on your website, and I am
20:12:17 16 confident that you county commissioners will not take a
20:12:21 17 do-nothing attitude.

20:12:22 18 It's also been suggested that perhaps the county
20:12:24 19 commissioners could pass the buck to the state legislature
20:12:29 20 or perhaps they could have the PUD given permissive
20:12:34 21 authority. But my answer to that would be that if the
20:12:38 22 county commissioners can authorize the PUD to have
20:12:42 23 permissive power, then they have the authority to order
20:12:46 24 the PUD because one would not be different from the other.
20:12:50 25 If there were no authority to order the PUD to fluoridate,

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20:12:55 1 there would be no authority to give them permission to
20:12:59 2 fluoridate.

20:13:00 3 The suggestion is also that there should be a vote
20:13:03 4 of the rate payers. But this is a matter of health, and
20:13:07 5 those matters of health are not routinely decided by rate
20:13:12 6 payers. We make those decisions by our elected officials,
20:13:16 7 and that is responsible to do so.

20:13:20 8 Recently there was a decision to add ozone to the
20:13:24 9 water of the PUD, and there was no vote taken before that
20:13:28 10 decision was made.

20:13:29 11 I respect the county commissioners and the people of
20:13:34 12 this community tremendously. I respect the community
20:13:42 13 particularly because of the significant civic engagement

20:13:44 14 that I'm seeing and I am witness to here tonight. I
20:13:50 15 respect these county commissioners for their
20:13:54 16 thoughtfulness, and I know you will do due diligence. But
20:14:00 17 diligence has two components: one is thoroughness and the
20:14:04 18 other is timeliness. And I have every confidence that
19 this will not just be a stalemate but that the
20:14:06 20 commissioners will do their diligence and come to a prompt
20:14:08 21 decision.

20:14:09 22 Thank you.

20:14:16 23 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: I counted wrong, so we'll
20:14:19 24 allow four of the against to come forward.

20:14:23 25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Commissioners, my name is

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20:14:23 1 James Newbaker, and I believe you have a letter from me in
20:14:28 2 your records so I'm not going to touch very much on that
20:14:31 3 letter, as Mr. Anderson said that anything written would
20:14:34 4 be put into the record.

20:14:36 5 I oppose fluoridation in Skagit County, and I am
20:14:40 6 speaking as a child that was raised in the rural part of
20:14:46 7 Mississippi, where I didn't have dental or fluoridated
20:14:49 8 water. And when I went in the Navy, I had perfect teeth,
20:14:55 9 and then after 24 years of forced fluoridation, I haven't
20:15:00 10 been to a dentist since. And my teeth are still my own,
20:15:08 11 thank you.

20:15:08 12 I think there's too many sources of fluoride already
20:15:12 13 in the community to be worried about adding yet another.
20:15:17 14 I have done some reading. I did not know anything about
20:15:22 15 fluoride before this issue came up before you, and I have
20:15:25 16 been reading on my own. There are too many questions that
20:15:30 17 have not been answered, and I would suggest that before
20:15:33 18 you force people to take a medication that they don't
20:15:38 19 want, you do some of that reading for yourself.

20:15:42 20 Thank you.

20:15:42 21 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

20:15:45 22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Wayne Carlson, and I
20:15:48 23 don't wish to be counted pro or con because I have a

20: 15: 53 24
20: 15: 59 25

question. And my future comments at a future hearing will
be based on the answer to this question I hope you can

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provide for me.
Is the form of fluoride that is being proposed for
the water supply, is it calcium fluoride or sodium
fluoride?
COMMISSIONER MUNKS: That's not something that
the PUD has had time to formulate or bring forward, so
we're not having a discussion about what form it is.
There's just information coming forward.
Anacortes does sodium fluoride, the salt.
MR. CARLSON: When a decision is made, either
way, whichever form is being proposed, would you get the
information out? Because my future comments at a hearing
would be based on what form it is.
COMMISSIONER MUNKS: I appreciate that comment.
And all the information that will come forward, we'll try
to spell out everything that is being done on this issue
before a decision is made. Thank you.
MR. CARLSON: Thank you.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Shirley
Jacobson, and I live in Bellingham. I'm a retired
pediatric nurse-practitioner and spent approximately 14
years with the Public Health Service.
I knew nothing about fluoride until a couple of
years ago when they were going to fluoridate the water
where I live, on Lummi Reservation, and then I began to

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read. The more I read, the more concerned I got about it.
First of all, putting a medication in the water
violates the principles of medication administration
because you cannot control the dose. Normally a medicine

20: 17: 45 5 is dosed based on a person's age and weight and allergic
20: 17: 51 6 history and their need. And you get informed consent.
20: 17: 56 7 And none of that is possible when you put a medication in
20: 18: 00 8 the water.

20: 18: 00 9 To say that it's not a medication, actually the
20: 18: 04 10 dictionary defines a medication as a substance that is
20: 18: 08 11 used to treat disease, and in this booklet, the literature
20: 18: 12 12 that Bellingham families has put on the back table, it
20: 18: 16 13 says that fluoride is useful for treating cavities, which
20: 18: 21 14 they're defining as a disease.

20: 18: 26 15 I brought a copy of a report of a study that was
20: 18: 32 16 done in 1995 by the University of Washington Clinical
20: 18: 38 17 Dental Research Center, and it was a study that was done
20: 18: 43 18 of all Washington counties, a survey of dental disease.
20: 18: 49 19 And the study reported that there was no statistical
20: 18: 54 20 significance relating fluoridated versus nonfluoridated
20: 18: 59 21 areas in Washington. Now, they only compared those
20: 19: 03 22 counties, and I haven't counted them up, but the only ones
20: 19: 10 23 that were left out were the counties that had both
20: 19: 12 24 fluoridated and nonfluoridated water, so they did compare
20: 19: 19 25 fluoridated versus nonfluoridated communities.

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20: 19: 22 1 And what they found is that a strong relationship is
20: 19: 25 2 between socioeconomic status and people of Hispanic
20: 19: 29 3 origin. And otherwise, there's no statistical difference.

20: 19: 34 4 I would recommend that for peer-reviewed studies
20: 19: 42 5 people would look at the study that -- or the review that
20: 19: 47 6 was done in 2003 by the International Academy on Oral
20: 19: 52 7 Medicine and Toxicology, and they reviewed hundreds of
20: 19: 57 8 studies. It was a group of both pro and opposing
20: 20: 04 9 scientists of fluoridation, and they found that the level
20: 20: 08 10 of fluoridation recommended was zero.

20: 20: 13 11 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

20: 20: 19 12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Danelle
20: 20: 21 13 Weaver, and I live in Bellingham. It may not seem like
20: 20: 25 14 it, but pro- and anti-fluoridation groups both have a lot

20:20:29 15 of things in common. For example, nobody wants to be in
20:20:33 16 your shoes right now.

20:20:35 17 We can all agree on some of the literature and the
20:20:40 18 goals. For example, the goal of fluoridation is to
20:20:43 19 deliver one milligram per day to a child. The assumption
20:20:47 20 is that the child drinks one liter of water per day, and
20:20:51 21 therefore, that is how much the child will receive, is one
20:20:55 22 milligram a day.

20:20:56 23 The caution is, two milligrams per day or more
20:21:00 24 causes incidents of objectionable dental fluorosis. Even
20:21:07 25 the EPA says they should not have more than four

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20:21:12 1 milligrams per day

20:21:14 2 Now, the reality is fluoride exposure is no longer
20:21:18 3 limited to drinking water for any segment of our
20:21:21 4 population. 66.4 percent of children in fluoridated
20:21:25 5 communities now display visible systemic fluoride
20:21:29 6 poisoning, otherwise known as dental fluorosis. 29.9
20:21:34 7 percent of children in fluoridated communities can claim
20:21:36 8 dental fluorosis in two teeth or more.

20:21:39 9 Now, I have heard interesting comments about
20:21:43 10 Internet research and the legitimacy of groups. The
20:21:46 11 things I'm reading from are such as the Journal of Public
20:21:51 12 Health Dentistry and the ADA. And I think we can all
20:21:54 13 agree on the legitimacy of those groups.

20:21:56 14 Now, interesting thing about the ADA. They seem to
20:22:00 15 be pushing this fluoridation issue; however, the ADA
20:22:06 16 council on scientific affairs and recommendations new
20:22:10 17 dosage schedule approved April of 1994 lists the
20:22:15 18 fluoride/iron level in drinking water and the age of
20:22:19 19 children and how much is recommended. For example, did
20:22:22 20 anybody else know that from birth to six months, they
20:22:26 21 recommend that infants receive no fluoridation. No
20:22:33 22 additional fluoride. This is coming from the ADA. And
20:22:36 23 like I said, I think we can all agree on the legitimacy of
20:22:40 24 that group.

20: 22: 41 25

From six months to three years, at less than .3

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parts per million. It should be .25 milligrams per day.

20: 22: 53 2

Less than a quarter of the dosage that they're claiming

20: 22: 59 3

children should receive.

4

COMMISSIONER MUNKS: You need to wrap up.

20: 23: 01 5

MS. JACOBSON: Also, some of the limitations --

20: 23: 04 6

interesting thing, the ADA recommends that all sources of

20: 23: 08 7

fluoride must be evaluated with a thorough fluoride

20: 23: 11 8

history, and I would be very interested to know if either

20: 23: 15 9

Skagit or Whatcom County has done any of these types of

20: 23: 20 10

studies.

20: 23: 21 11

Thank you.

20: 23: 34 12

COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Do we have anybody else
who wants to speak against fluoride?

20: 23: 44 14

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Nan Laney, Sedro-Woolley,
Washington.

20: 23: 50 16

I'm opposed to fluoride for a number of reasons, but

20: 23: 56 17

I'd like to just reiterate some of my gut instincts around

20: 24: 01 18

issues around low-income folks and sort of the tragedies

20: 24: 06 19

that come along with that. I am a former special

20: 24: 11 20

education teacher, and my heart is really with the

20: 24: 16 21

low-income folks.

20: 24: 16 22

I was forced to stop teaching because of

20: 24: 21 23

environmental health issues related to air quality in

20: 24: 25 24

school buildings. So my heart is also torn between

20: 24: 30 25

low-income folks and environmental health issues in part

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because of my own health issues. So just a point of

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reference.

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Low-income folks struggle in so many different ways,

20: 24: 41 4

and I think that this ties in with dental care, because

20:24:47 5 this is what we're really talking about, right? That's
20:24:49 6 the presumption.

20:24:49 7 As other folks have mentioned, diet and education
20:24:52 8 around dental care are really critical. Not just for
20:24:56 9 low-income folks but for people of all ages and economic
20:25:01 10 classes.

20:25:01 11 Just a few comments: Fluoride is a toxic substance.
20:25:08 12 The FDA regulates fluoride. It's a drug in toothpaste,
20:25:13 13 and the EPA classifies fluoride as a contaminant, and it's
20:25:14 14 the EPA that monitors fluoride in drinking water supplies.

20:25:18 15 Here's my question: Why would we want to add a drug
20:25:23 16 and contaminant, depending on which agency you're talking
20:25:27 17 about, to our water supply? Why would we want to ingest
20:25:30 18 it in the water we drink, in the water we bathe in? Our
20:25:35 19 skin is quite able to take in toxic substances as well,
20:25:40 20 and also our gardens and the animals that we're
20:25:43 21 responsible for.

20:25:46 22 Lots of folks have talked about lots of studies, so
20:25:51 23 I'm going to skip a lot of my comments. Fluoridation has
20:25:55 24 not been shown to decrease tooth decay in a number of
20:26:00 25 reports and research studies, and one of them includes

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20:26:01 1 data from the World Health Organization, which shows the
20:26:05 2 same declines in tooth decay in countries with and without
20:26:06 3 fluoridated water supplies since the 1960s.

20:26:09 4 One of the things that's most perplexing to me is
20:26:14 5 that even for people who believe fluoride can be
20:26:18 6 beneficial to reducing cavities, what I don't understand
20:26:23 7 is why they would want to ingest this toxin into their
20:26:30 8 bodies even though they believe it's helpful to their
20:26:31 9 teeth.

10 If people believe that fluoride is beneficial to
20:26:31 11 their teeth, my belief is they should apply it directly to
20:26:35 12 their teeth, not drink it and bathe in it and grow their
20:26:38 13 vegetables in it.

20:26:39 14 Fluoride has been show to alter bone structure and

20:26:43 15 have all sorts of toxic effects on organs and glands. And
20:26:47 16 that's been shown in a number of research studies that are
20:26:51 17 easily locatable.

20:26:51 18 Fluoride's been linked repeatedly to increased bone
20:26:55 19 fractures and bone cancers in a number of academic
20:27:00 20 studies. Also, I found an article in the September 2004
20:27:04 21 issue of the International Journal of Occupational and
20:27:08 22 Environmental Health which noted fluoride can be toxic to
23 other animals, including fish and aquatic and organisms,
24 invertebrates.

20:27:13 25 So closing comments: If this issue is access to

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20:27:19 1 dental care for those who cannot afford it in Skagit
20:27:22 2 County, my suggestion is to spend the money that would be
20:27:26 3 used for forcing fluoridated water on the entire community
20:27:32 4 and establish an account or something like that for people
20:27:34 5 who cannot afford to pay for dental care. Additionally,
20:27:38 6 it could be used for education around diet and proper
20:27:42 7 dental care.

20:27:43 8 Additionally, the account could be used to pay for
20:27:44 9 interested persons to receive topical applications of
20:27:46 10 fluoride to their teeth directly, a safer and more direct
20:27:51 11 way of administering fluoride, which allows the rest of
20:27:54 12 the population a choice. Medicating the entire population
20:27:57 13 is simply insane, in my opinion.

20:27:59 14 My request to the Skagit commissioners is that the
20:28:03 15 decision to fluoridate PUD water either be rejected or put
20:28:07 16 to a vote of the PUD rate payers.

20:28:17 17 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: We'll take some that are
20:28:18 18 for and then we'll take some more that are against.

20:28:26 19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners,
20:28:27 20 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mavis Betz, and I'm here
20:28:28 21 on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon. I'm the
20:28:33 22 president of that club and we have sent a letter to the
20:28:37 23 commission that will be part of the record.

20:28:38 24 Our club of 100 strong citizens of this county has

081505mtvernonhearing.txt
20:28:44 25 encouraged -- is encouraging the commissioners to

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20:28:47 1 fluoridate the water. The motto of Kiwanis is serving the
20:28:53 2 children of the world, and we believe that this would be
20:28:56 3 the best policy and the best way to serve the children of
20:29:01 4 Skagit County.

20:29:02 5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is

20:29:10 8 Anne Wells, 14659 Mount View Road. I'm a hygienist. I
20:29:17 9 have been practicing for 32 years working with children,
20:29:20 10 and I put the fillings in and I give anesthetic. I work
20:29:24 11 full-time for a community health center and I just came
20:29:28 12 off a hectic nine-hour day. I'm really tired. I should
20:29:34 13 be home watering my parched garden, but I feel really
20:29:37 14 passionate about this because I've worked up and down the
20:29:37 15 I-5 corridor. I've worked on both sides of the mountains.
20:29:39 16 I've worked in Seattle, Bothell, Anacortes, fluoridated
20:29:42 17 areas, and also Mount Vernon and Wenatchee, which are not
20:29:49 18 fluoridated, and the difference is startling.

20:29:50 19 The picture that was shown, I've seen that too. The
20:29:56 20 fluorosis that I hear spoken of, the only time I've seen
20:30:00 21 bad fluorosis has been people that were born in Mexico and
20:30:05 22 Texas.

23 Thank you.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is

20:30:14 25 Lyall Bishop, and I have been routinely writing

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20:30:20 1 prescriptions for fluoride in the 35 years of my pediatric
20:30:27 2 practice here in Skagit County. I also reside in Skagit
20:30:30 3 County.

20:30:30 4 The overwhelming majority of my patients would
20:30:34 5 prefer to have the fluoride in the water. It's safer way

20: 30: 39 6 to give it to their children. It's cheaper and more
20: 30: 46 7 effective. I would like to remind you that there are
20: 30: 49 8 large populations in the world that have lived for
20: 30: 52 9 generations with fluoride in their water, and the studies
20: 30: 57 10 done on those populations compared with the other
20: 31: 01 11 populations do not show any ill effects of the fluoride in
20: 31: 05 12 the water.

20: 31: 07 13 Fluoride's a substance -- it's been the most studied
20: 31: 11 14 of all of them that we give to people and the evidence is
20: 31: 15 15 overwhelming that it is safe and effective. I urge you to
20: 31: 19 16 add it to our water supply.

20: 31: 26 17 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

20: 31: 38 18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Ruth Heft. I am
20: 31: 38 19 in support of fluoride. I have 32 teeth in my head, nine
20: 31: 43 20 of which don't have caps on them. My daughter, who got
20: 31: 51 21 fluoride, has only one tooth that she knocked out on her
22 bicycle that's ever had a problem. The rest of them are
23 perfect.

24 I also work in health care. My mother was a
20: 31: 54 25 registered nurse, as am I. We're both breast-fed, both

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20: 31: 59 1 took good care of our kids. In fact, my daughter probably
20: 32: 04 2 got more candy than I did because she lived in town and I
20: 32: 09 3 lived in the country.

4 So I'm highly in favor, and let me say working in a
20: 32: 09 5 doctor's clinic currently, it's extremely difficult to get
20: 32: 11 6 dental care for people who need it who have medical
20: 32: 15 7 coupons. There just isn't a lot of availability. We
20: 32: 17 8 recently had an OB patient who was on narcotics for a
20: 32: 22 9 period of time trying to control her dental pain while she
10 waited to get an appointment to get her -- taken care of,
20: 32: 26 11 so I really think it would be helpful for people.

20: 32: 29 12 Thanks.

13 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

20: 32: 37 14 We'd like to see people who haven't spoken against
20: 32: 44 15 that would like to come up and speak, please.

20: 32: 52 16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Katie Vessel, from
20: 32: 57 17 Bellingham. And I understand you're going to be doing a
20: 33: 01 18 study here and you've hired an engineering group to do
20: 33: 05 19 that. Would you be sure to ask them the form of fluoride
20: 33: 11 20 that you're going to be using?
20: 33: 13 21 In most of the cities in this country, they're using
20: 33: 16 22 an industrial waste product that comes from the
20: 33: 20 23 manufacturer of phosphate fertilizer, and it comes
20: 33: 26 24 straight out of the scrubber smokestacks of the
20: 33: 33 25 agricultural chemical companies that manufacture the

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20: 33: 34 1 phosphate chemicals that goes on all of your fertilizers.
20: 33: 39 2 And they just scrape it right out of their
20: 33: 43 3 smokestacks, and it contains lead, it contains arsenic,
20: 33: 49 4 cadmium, beryllium, and mercury. And they do not purify
20: 33: 54 5 it. It's sold in 55-gallon drums, and that's what --
20: 33: 59 6 they've sold -- They usually sell about 155,000 tons of it
20: 34: 04 7 a year, and that is sold to municipal water treatment
20: 34: 09 8 facilities. Be sure to ask if that's what's going to be
20: 34: 13 9 used.
20: 34: 13 10 It is not sodium fluoride. It's a silicon fluoride.
20: 34: 18 11 It's a weak acid. It's a hydrosilicon fluoride. There's
20: 34: 24 12 several assets of fluorene in it and it is not sodium
20: 34: 29 13 fluoride and it is not pharmaceutical grade fluoride.
20: 34: 33 14 This is a huge mistake people are making about this
20: 34: 34 15 product. It's an industrial waste product and it has
20: 34: 36 16 never been certified for human use.

17 Thank you.

20: 34: 51 18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners.
20: 34: 51 19 James Cook, 26135 Minkler, Sedro-Woolley. I'm the
20: 34: 56 20 District 3 Commissioner for PUD, and I came here tonight
20: 35: 00 21 mainly to listen. I'm undecided. I stepped up because I
20: 35: 07 22 got tired of waiting. I'm undecided. I'm not for or
20: 35: 11 23 against. I have a lot of questions.

20: 35: 14 24 At PUD we do 3 billion gallons of water a year. If
20: 35: 20 25 every one of our customers drank one liter a day, that's 8

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20:35:24 1 million gallons. Where's the rest of that water going to
20:35:28 2 go? What it's in it? Like I say, I have questions. Most
20:35:33 3 of the water we're going to treat is not for human
20:35:37 4 consumption.

20:35:38 5 It may take up to five injection points to cover the
20:35:43 6 Judy system. That's what we're talking about. That's out
20:35:46 7 main system. We have several satellite systems, but the
20:35:51 8 Judy system, that's the one we're talking about. That's
20:35:53 9 our big one. It might take five injection points.

10 With that in mind, how secure does an injection
20:35:56 11 point have to be, where is it going to go? We hired a
20:35:58 12 consultant to study it. \$18,000 of our rate payers'
20:36:05 13 money. It will be done in mid-October. We have had no
20:36:08 14 firm written offer of funds and we have no idea of the
20:36:12 15 cost. The study, like I said, will be done in
20:36:22 16 mid-October. That will give us an estimate of the cost.

20:36:25 17 It's my job as a PUD commissioner to provide good,
20:36:29 18 clean water at a reasonable cost to my rate payers.
20:36:34 19 That's my mandate. So we need to know all the facts, all
20:36:38 20 the issues before we move forward. This is like the cart
20:36:43 21 before the horse.

20:36:45 22 Like I mentioned, we're not really into any unfunded
20:36:50 23 mandates, so if you guys want to tell us to do this,
20:36:54 24 please send a check.

20:37:00 25 My stance as a PUD commissioner, if you authorize us

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20:37:05 1 to do this, we would like to have a vote of our rate
20:37:10 2 payers, because they're the ones who pay for it.

20:37:14 3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Commissioners, Dr. Avery
20:37:17 4 Martin, Clear Lake. I have followed this subject for 30
20:37:23 5 years. I was surprised to see it show up again.

20:37:28 6 I'd like to talk just about a couple issues that
20:37:32 7 maybe haven't been addressed. Sometimes as I listen to
20:37:35 8 this, it seems like a campfire story, where it starts on
20:37:40 9 one side and by the time it makes it around the campfire,
20:37:45 10 we all believe whatever was said.

20:37:47 11 First is the assumption of benefit. We have in our
20:37:51 12 country a group called the CDC, and they've published for
20:37:55 13 the last 25 years the mean DMFT, and we've put it on a
20:38:01 14 graph. I don't know where the camera is. Is it over
20:38:07 15 there? Over here? (Indicating.)

20:38:10 16 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: We'll get it on there.
20:38:13 17 Trust me.

20:38:14 18 DR. MARTIN: It shows over the last 25 years
20:38:16 19 the cavity rate has gone down, and on there it also shows
20:38:17 20 that we have fluoridated about 40 percent of the
20:38:20 21 population, going up to about 50 percent, and because we
20:38:22 22 put both of those lines on the same graph, we make the
20:38:26 23 assumption that there's some relationship. Not exactly
20:38:29 24 good science. So what can we do to compare that against?

20:38:34 25 Well, on the bottom here, I have provided from the

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20:38:36 1 World Health Organization 20 countries that have not
20:38:41 2 fluoridated over the same 25-year period of time and you
20:38:44 3 will see that they have had the same or better decrease in
20:38:48 4 DMFT.

20:38:50 5 So there needs to be more science involved than
20:38:54 6 saying "I think this is the reason why."

20:38:58 7 Now, not to be long-winded on this, as of August 5th
20:39:03 8 of this year, 11 unions of the EPA have filed with the
20:39:07 9 United States Government to lower fluoride in public water
20:39:11 10 to zero percent.

20:39:13 11 At this point, as we sit here, the National Academy
20:39:18 12 of Sciences in Canada and the National Research Council in
20:39:21 13 the United States are both in a two- or three-year --
20:39:27 14 separately -- review of the subject of fluoridation.

20:39:29 15 I would appeal that before we rush into this, we

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might wait to see what these updated review of the scientific literature and what their determinations are before we take the risk of making that stance.

I would like to think that cavity correction was as easy as putting fluoride in the water. I'm not sure it is. I do think the research shows there's some risk that we should consider. I think it might be a sinking ship we may not want to be on.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Is there anybody else here

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that is against fluoridation that would like to speak?

And I would ask that anybody else who is against the issue please come forward.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Ruth Thomas. Way back in the '70s, my pediatrician was showing me a beautiful picture of appetite crystals with fluoride in the teeth, and then I met a dairy farmer's wife, who introduced me to the adverse effects of fluoride, and it would affect her whole herd of cows. Since then I have been doing a lot of research off and on since then. I have a background in medical record library science, and I like to do research.

There are so many reasons to oppose it, it's hard to condense it. I came across recently about fluoride toxicity overfeeds that happened in Hooper Bay, Alaska, and I understand there was one death of a 41-year-old male and 296 acute illnesses. I would not be surprised if there were more.

I also found this same event happened, overfeed, in Portage, Michigan in July of '91; Harbor Springs, Michigan, November '77; New Baltimore, Michigan, August of '95; St. Joseph, Michigan in December '98; Jackson, Mississippi in 1993.

Now, I know there are others that are not reported, but I also have read of children who have been affected

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20:42:28 1 from the same overfeed in schools, and also, I know I have
20:42:33 2 read of children who died in the dentist's office or --
20:42:39 3 from fluoride treatment in the dentist's office.

20:42:42 4 And my own granddaughter, when she was nine years
20:42:49 5 old -- I just talked to her recently, but she recalled
20:42:53 6 that when she was nine years old, she had a stainist -- or
20:43:01 7 fluoride gel treatment on her teeth and she just happened
20:43:05 8 to swallow some of it and she felt like throwing up, and
20:43:11 9 her stomach pain lasted about a day.

20:43:14 10 This is one thing I found about fluoride toxicity or
20:43:17 11 acute toxicity is the gastrointestinal distress.

20:43:22 12 In the late '90s, I unexpectedly met a victim of
20:43:29 13 chronic fluoride toxicity who was in the same hospital
20:43:32 14 room that my late husband was and he happened to -- not
20:43:37 15 happened -- he worked at the Ferndale aluminum plant there
20:43:43 16 before the smokestack scrubbers were installed, and as he
20:43:49 17 broke down, he said it was the worst decision he ever made
20:43:53 18 in his life. And he obviously was -- He was being fed by
20:43:59 19 his wife. He couldn't feed himself, and he obviously had
20:44:06 20 gastrointestinal distress.

20:44:07 21 Dialysis patients are not benefitted by fluoride --

20:44:14 22 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: (Indicating.)

20:44:15 23 MS. THOMAS: What does that mean?

20:44:17 24 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: That means you're out of
25 time.

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20:44:20 1 MS. THOMAS: Well, anyway, there's gaps in the
20:44:22 2 fluoride facts. I find there's a lot of gaps. And it's
20:44:27 3 in the household products, in pesticides and food, and I
20:44:32 4 guess we'll have to continue next time.

20:44:36 5 I'll be back.

20:44:38 6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Do we have anybody else
8 that is against the fluoride issue that would like to
9 speak?

20: 45: 02 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners.
20: 45: 04 11 My name is Ann Marie Humphries, Anacortes, Washington. I
20: 45: 09 12 have been a resident here in Anacortes for the past 14
20: 45: 12 13 years. I live in the county, even though my address is
20: 45: 17 14 Anacortes, and I live out in Dewey Beach. I receive the
20: 45: 23 15 fluoridated water. However, I'm from the East Coast. I
20: 45: 26 16 have had fluoridated water from the time I have been a
20: 45: 28 17 child. My children have also.

20: 45: 30 18 I find no problem with fluoridation. I find it
20: 45: 35 19 healthy. And in a big city -- I'm from Philadelphia --
20: 45: 40 20 you have no choice. It's in there. You don't even know
20: 45: 45 21 it's in there. It's something you're raised with. Here
20: 45: 48 22 it's a new issue, and it's something if you're curious or
20: 45: 50 23 concerned to bring these issues here tonight.

20: 45: 53 24 I also happen to represent the Skagit County
20: 45: 57 25 Republican party, as I am chairman. On June 16th, the

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20: 46: 01 1 Republican central committee met and they voted to ask the
20: 46: 07 2 Skagit County commissioners to adopt a fluoridation
20: 46: 10 3 ordinance that would allow and require the Skagit County
20: 46: 14 4 Public Utility District Number 1 to adjust the natural
20: 46: 20 5 level of fluoride in its water supply, and I'd like to
20: 46: 24 6 present this tonight.

20: 46: 25 7 Thank you very much.

20: 46: 35 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, I'm looking at
20: 46: 39 9 your light, and I'm confused by it. My name is
20: 46: 44 10 Dr. Richard Pleus. I'm a toxicologist. I'm a
20: 46: 46 11 pharmacologist also by training. I have about 25 years of
20: 46: 48 12 experience in reviewing just about any chemical that we
20: 46: 52 13 know on this planet in terms of toxicity. I've been asked
20: 46: 58 14 to review the hundreds of thousands of pages of
20: 47: 02 15 peer-reviewed and nonpeer-reviewed literature regarding
20: 47: 07 16 fluoride and its potential for causing adverse effects.

20: 47: 12 17 And I've also taken a look at information that is found on
20: 47: 16 18 the literature -- on the Internet, as well as other
20: 47: 20 19 sources.

20: 47: 21 20 So basically I've done a de novo synthesis and
20: 47: 26 21 assessment of all the literature. So basically I'd like
20: 47: 31 22 to kind of report as to what my assessment is on this.

20: 47: 34 23 I think one of the most important things is to take
20: 47: 37 24 a look at what we call peer-reviewed literature. For this
20: 47: 41 25 there are literally tens of thousands of documents, most

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20: 47: 43 1 of which are human studies. I say that as opposed to
20: 47: 49 2 animal studies. When there are human studies, it's more
20: 47: 53 3 important to use that information over animal studies. I
20: 47: 55 4 think that's important. And for fluoride, the
20: 47: 58 5 predominance on the literature on human studies is
20: 48: 00 6 overwhelming in the sense of the number of good quality
20: 48: 05 7 studies that have been done.

20: 48: 06 8 In addition, there have been commissions formed by
20: 48: 10 9 different countries of the world, within the United States
20: 48: 13 10 by different organizations. They have all looked at
20: 48: 15 11 fluoride and they have done an assessment on the
20: 48: 18 12 literature similar to what I have done, and probably more
20: 48: 22 13 so because they have individuals that have expertise in
20: 48: 26 14 different subdisciplines of medicine. They've all come to
20: 48: 30 15 the same conclusion in terms of the potential for causing
20: 48: 33 16 adverse effects at the doses that are given and optimal
20: 48: 37 17 doses that are given to the public in terms of fluoride.

20: 48: 40 18 The one last thing I think -- and it's obviously
20: 48: 44 19 hard in two minutes to be able to synthesize hundreds of
20: 48: 48 20 thousands of pages of documents, but if you have any
20: 48: 52 21 questions, I would certainly be available to answer them.

20: 48: 55 22 One of the things that I want to be clear on is that
20: 48: 57 23 in the world of toxicology, all chemicals are considered
20: 49: 03 24 poisonous from the standpoint of every chemical has
20: 49: 07 25 potential to cause an adverse effect. Clearly the

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20:49:11 1 question is: What is the dose and what is the exposure to
20:49:12 2 that individual? And that really is where the rubber hits
3 the road on this issue. And for the doses that we're
20:49:13 4 talking about, which are very low doses, that is an
20:49:17 5 important concept to consider.

20:49:19 6 Knowing that I only have two minutes and all the
20:49:23 7 literature out there, if the commission does have any
20:49:28 8 questions about a scientific paper, for whatever reason,
20:49:33 9 any concerns about it, I would be happy to take a look at
20:49:37 10 that and provide you scientific references or information
20:49:38 11 in regards to that.

20:49:39 12 Thank you.

20:49:46 13 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you.

20:49:47 14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Joan
20:49:49 15 Youngquist. I live in Bellingham, but I'm the director of
20:49:54 16 Skagit Island's Head Start. I'm here on behalf of that
20:49:58 17 program. We serve over 300 low-income families through
20:50:00 18 our early childhood education program here in Skagit
20:50:03 19 County.

20:50:03 20 I just want to bring to the attention that there is
20:50:07 21 a direct link between oral health and child development
20:50:10 22 and education. We do have children that come into our
20:50:15 23 program with severe dental caries that are unable to
20:50:17 24 engage in learning activities in the classroom. Many of
25 our staff spend some considerable amount of time

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20:50:22 1 supporting families in accessing dental care for their
20:50:24 2 children.

20:50:26 3 Our federal performance standards do state that
20:50:30 4 dental treatment and follow-up must include fluoride
20:50:34 5 supplements and topical fluoride treatments as recommended
20:50:39 6 by dental professionals in communities that do not have

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fluoridated water.
Nationwide, Head Start is recognizing the importance of oral health and is making that a priority among our programs, including those here in Skagit County. I do want to let you know that our policy council, which is made up of Head Start parents, has voted to endorse the fluoridation of water in Skagit County.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is A. Elliott Johnson. For 45 years, I lived 500 feet up the edge of your property, so I welcome you to our community. Besides that, I'm embarrassed because I thought we had fluoridation, up until recently. I didn't know we didn't have fluoridation.

As a young child, 75 years ago or so, I had rotten teeth. I was going to the dentist all the time. Of course we didn't have fluoride at that time. And since then, of course, I have been able to take better care of myself with getting painted by the dentist and doing all those things, so I think I'm in pretty good shape now.

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But I keep thinking that perhaps -- and the experts can tell us -- at the beginning of a child's life is probably more important than anything else, I would assume. I don't know this, of course. And those who haven't had the advantages of it, when they get old, I suppose, also they are at higher risk for extra costs because they have not been protected. So I feel sorry for them.

I've belonged to this Kiwanis club for 58 years and we do serve the children of the world, and we're proud of that. We're trying to make our community a better place to live.

I also belong to a small group downtown, all retired, business and professional people, and I think you know who they are. And last Wednesday there was just nine of them in attendance, so I asked the question to them,

20: 52: 46 17 what do you think about fluoride in the water? I was
20: 52: 49 18 pleased to know, it wasn't 80 or 90 percent, it was 100
20: 52: 56 19 percent that said yes. And if you don't believe me, ask
20: 53: 00 20 them, because you know who they are.

20: 53: 02 21 On the opposite end of the spectrum, and this is not
20: 53: 08 22 important, I'm sure, at this time -- I had an uncle --
20: 53: 11 23 well, a grandfather that homesteaded in the 1900s. My
20: 53: 14 24 Uncle Noble Lee, his youngest son, ran the farm. Now his
20: 53: 19 25 son Nolan Lee runs the same farm. Noble, in his early

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20: 53: 24 1 days, had his water directly out of the river, and there
20: 53: 28 2 was no treatment to it. Of course, the opposite end of
20: 53: 31 3 the spectrum, and he almost died of typhoid fever. Well,
20: 53: 37 4 thank goodness, we're doing something with our water
20: 53: 41 5 supply. We've gone a long ways, and hopefully we can
20: 53: 42 6 still go further.

20: 53: 44 7 So I won't take any more of your time, but I have
20: 53: 48 8 had heard recently that 60 percent of all our water
20: 53: 52 9 systems in the United States are fluoridated. That's
20: 53: 55 10 interesting, if that's true. And I talked to a man,
20: 53: 59 11 retired military, today. And he said 100 percent of all
20: 54: 03 12 the military installations are fluoridated. That tells me
20: 54: 09 13 something, of course.

20: 54: 10 14 So I'll get out of your way. I hope you make the
20: 54: 15 15 right decision. If you decide against it, I think you-all
20: 54: 19 16 should band together and get to that man that lives in
20: 54: 21 17 Anacortes and get them out of it too, if that's your
20: 54: 25 18 decision.

20: 54: 27 19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
20: 54: 30 20 Vickie Cooley, and I have been a resident of Mount Vernon
20: 54: 35 21 for 30 years, and I would like to speak to the advantage
20: 54: 38 22 of fluoridated water for low-income children.

20: 54: 40 23 A lot of people are concerned because low-income
20: 54: 44 24 children in the east part of our county will not be able
20: 54: 48 25 to receive water fluoridation because of their water

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20: 54: 51 1 source, but interestingly enough, of the three elementary
20: 54: 57 2 schools in Sedro-Woolley, 52 percent of those children are
20: 55: 02 3 low income. So we would be able to reach a lot of
20: 55: 07 4 low-income children through water fluoridation.

20: 55: 09 5 Thank you.

20: 55: 14 6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Dennis Cooley.
20: 55: 16 7 I'm a retired dentist. I've lived in Skagit County for 30
20: 55: 21 8 years. The real issue here is, I think, one of ethics; in
20: 55: 28 9 the sense of when I graduated from dental school, I took
20: 55: 34 10 an oath saying that I would do what's best for my patients
20: 55: 40 11 and the dental community. Likewise, as the health
20: 55: 45 12 advisors for the county, you did the same; you took an
20: 55: 51 13 oath.

20: 55: 51 14 I know there are lots issues as far as the science
20: 55: 53 15 and legal issues and -- there's issues on both sides
20: 55: 56 16 there, but when it comes back down to it, it's what's best
20: 56: 00 17 for these people in the community.

20: 56: 01 18 In the dental profession, I'm identified as a white
20: 56: 07 19 figured dentist, as this guy behind me will be too, Gene
20: 56: 12 20 Sargent. There are some of us down here on the street,
20: 56: 16 21 just trying to make a difference for our community, and I
20: 56: 19 22 just ask you to -- on behalf of the health community of
20: 56: 23 23 Skagit County, that you support fluoridation and help all
20: 56: 27 24 those patients, all those kids in the community. It's a
20: 56: 34 25 tough decision, I know, but it's really the right thing to

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20: 56: 37 1 do.

20: 56: 37 2 So thank you.

20: 56: 41 3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
20: 56: 43 4 Sara Hill. I'm a pediatric dentist. I live in Anacortes.
20: 56: 46 5 I practice in Mount Vernon and Oak Harbor. I have been
20: 56: 52 6 doing it for nine years.

20: 56: 53 7 I grew up in a fluoridated community. I was

20:56:59 8 educated in traditional health care. I have always been
20:57:02 9 open to alternative modalities, and those kind of patients
20:57:06 10 and their families.

20:57:06 11 I have no illusions. Fluoride is not a panacea.
20:57:10 12 It's not a perfect thing, and it's my responsibility as a
20:57:14 13 pediatric dentist to counsel these families about their
20:57:17 14 responsibilities in other ways -- hygiene, diet, and I
20:57:20 15 talk about that every day. I also talk about where
20:57:24 16 they're getting their fluoride. You're right, too much
20:57:29 17 fluoride is not a good thing, which is why I'm so
18 pro-flouridation in the water. It's the safest way to
20:57:32 19 determine the amount. Babies aren't going to drink a
20:57:37 20 liter of water. It's all geared towards getting them the
21 right amount.

20:57:46 22 Please, help us do the right thing. Make my job
20:57:48 23 just a little bit easier. I'm still going to do my part
20:57:51 24 in diet and hygiene. I'm still going to harp on every kid
20:57:54 25 that comes in and talk about the choices that they put in

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20:57:57 1 their mouth. This is the safest way to give them that
20:58:00 2 boost in the right direction.

20:58:02 3 As far as fluorosis -- and I did hear some talk
20:58:06 4 about that -- I see it, but for me, it is some of those
20:58:10 5 kids from Mexico and Texas where it occurs at seven in ten
6 parts per million instead of .7 and .1. But I also see it
20:58:16 7 in kids that eat toothpaste, and that's a huge part of
20:58:19 8 what I counsel them every day.

20:58:21 9 It's not a panacea, but if I can get those bottles
20:58:24 10 of fluoride out of the house so it's not accessible to
20:58:28 11 them to use too much and I can counsel the parents for the
20:58:30 12 kids not to eat the toothpaste -- and, "Folks, drink the
20:58:32 13 water. Drink the water. Skip the juice. Skip the
20:58:34 14 Kool-Aid. Skip all that other stuff. Drink the water."

20:58:42 15 Put the fluoride in it. Thank you.

20:58:46 16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just about closing time. I'm
20:58:51 17 Gene Sargent. I'm a dentist. I reside in Burlington. I

20: 58: 56 18 have been here for -- practicing here for more than 47
20: 58: 59 19 years.

20: 59: 00 20 I want to thank the commissioners for holding this
20: 59: 03 21 meeting. I'm pretty impressed because I'm familiar with
20: 59: 09 22 how some of these things are done, and I'm quite sure that
20: 59: 12 23 the presentation by your counsel was not novel to you,
20: 59: 19 24 that you knew what he was going to say, and he threw you a
20: 59: 25 25 life jacket. You're kind of lousy politicians, because he

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20: 59: 25 1 said, "Well, you can do nothing or you can bail out." And
20: 59: 30 2 you knew that before this meeting. You could have
20: 59: 34 3 canceled this meeting. And here you are being attentive.
20: 59: 35 4 And I know you individually, and I know that you'll make
20: 59: 38 5 the decisions based on what you feel is best for the
20: 59: 40 6 people of Skagit County, your constituency. So thank you
20: 59: 45 7 for doing this.

20: 59: 47 8 In my 47 years here, I have been dedicated to
20: 59: 52 9 giving -- prescribing fluoride. I have generations. I
20: 59: 56 10 have children who are now grandparents who grew up in my
21: 00: 04 11 practice with fluoride. And so we have three generations
21: 00: 06 12 in families in my own. My parents had dentures. I have
21: 00: 09 13 20 gold crowns, and my children are without dental decay,
21: 00: 13 14 and my grandchildren. And fluoride is the cornerstone
21: 00: 16 15 that made the significant difference in the dental health.

21: 00: 21 16 In my 47 years, I have never had a medical
21: 00: 26 17 emergency. I have never had mottled teeth or fluorosis,
21: 00: 29 18 and I prescribe fluoride diligently. In fact, many times
21: 00: 34 19 I've asked people to find another dentist if you don't
21: 00: 38 20 like the way I approach things. I have challenged
21: 00: 42 21 pregnant women who are concerned about it, and I said,
21: 00: 45 22 "Well, if your kid has a cavity, if you do what I tell
21: 00: 49 23 you, I'll fix it for free." I've done that and I've never
21: 00: 53 24 had a claim. So it's very, very effective. It does work.

21: 00: 59 25 The fluoride ion replaces the hydroxide ion in the

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21:01:03 1 hydroxy appetite crystal, and it is more resistant to
21:01:08 2 decay. And you can go on and on. But the chemistry is
21:01:11 3 there and the testimony has been there, and I'm sure
21:01:15 4 you'll make the decision that's in the best interest of
21:01:19 5 the people of Skagit County. I'm going to thank you for
21:01:22 6 allowing us to have this.

21:01:30 7 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: One more.

21:01:32 8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Dr. B J. Larsen.
21:01:36 9 I'm a pediatric dentist. I have been practicing here in
21:01:40 10 Mount Vernon for the last 12 years.

21:01:43 11 The fluoride controversy has always seemed to be
21:01:48 12 something that is just completely invented. When you look
21:01:51 13 at the research and you look at the studies -- and I've
21:01:54 14 got a small library myself on this subject -- there is no
21:02:00 15 controversy. So it bewilders me how there always seems to
21:02:04 16 be one.

21:02:05 17 Every week in my office, I have people coming in,
21:02:09 18 they don't want to get a fluoride prescription. They're
21:02:14 19 simply misinformed by the Internet or scared. We all
21:02:18 20 understand fear with terrorism and all the other things we
21:02:22 21 have to deal with.

21:02:23 22 This issue is something that needs to be focussed on
21:02:26 23 what it can do for kids. When you have children, which
21:02:29 24 I'm sure almost everyone in here has or will, you can't
21:02:33 25 get them to do what you want them to at the time you want

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21:02:37 1 them to do it. It's very common for that to happen. When
21:02:40 2 they come to my office, we have to make that happen in a
21:02:41 3 matter of 30 minutes, while they're there, or we can't get
21:02:45 4 anything done. Trying to get them to brush, floss, take a
21:02:50 5 fluoride tablet every night when they're two years old is
21:02:53 6 almost impossible. Even the most well-meaning parents
21:02:58 7 can't do it. And that's what I treat every day in my

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office.
If they have fluoride and if the kids will actually take it before they're two, it really does do a lot more for them than if they're continually having to catch up after that. It does help the teeth form in a stronger way. That research is irrefutable. The kids that get beyond that and are, say, 12 -- you should take fluoride until you're 16, until your teeth stop forming -- those kids have a difficult time doing anything their parents say, for a variety of other reasons. And trying to get them to actually brush or floss or take fluoride tablets before bed is equally impossible. Those middle-aged kids, the ones that are sleeping back here, are the ones that will actually cooperate with us.

And basically all I have to say about this whole subject is that it really needs to be done just to help alleviate some of the pain suffering in the kids that just get behind. Whether they're low income or high income, I

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see all different types come through my office and they're all needing more fluoride. So please fluoridate the water system. Give all of us pediatric dentists and all the other dentists a little bit of a break, and we can maybe do some other things.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Tracy Garland. I'm the president and chief executive officer of the Washington Dental Service Foundation. I'd like to join the others in thanking you for listening and engaging in this process of coming to a resolution on a difficult issue.

I won't repeat what others have said. Just two points to make, and that is that one-half of the population that is served by the Public Utility Districts are either children or seniors, both of whom are populations that would stand to benefit. We talk a lot

21:04:50 18 about children issues, but it's also the senior population
21:04:54 19 that's very much vulnerable to tooth decay.

21:04:57 20 And secondly, for your benefit and for the benefit
21:05:00 21 of Commissioner Cooke, I would like to state publicly that
21:05:04 22 my organization is prepared to finance the initial cost of
21:05:08 23 implementing fluoridation in Skagit County, thereby
21:05:09 24 reducing the cost to the rate payers and citizens of this
21:05:13 25 area. I hope that assists you in coming to your

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21:05:19 1 conclusion.

21:05:20 2 Thank you very much.

21:05:21 3 COMMISSIONER MUNKS: Thank you. Is there
21:05:24 4 anybody else with a burning desire to get up and talk?

21:05:30 5 I do want to thank all of you for coming. As I said
21:05:34 6 at the beginning of the meeting, this is the beginning of
21:05:37 7 a public process that we're going to use to take forward
21:05:42 8 information. We're a long ways from making a decision, as
21:05:45 9 I also stated. We have also said that we appreciate the
21:05:50 10 PUD moving forward with their study, and we are going to
21:05:54 11 allow that time frame to take place.

21:05:56 12 There are other issues that need to come forward. I
21:06:01 13 would encourage you as you have information to bring it
21:06:06 14 forward, and we'll accept it at any time. My folder is
21:06:10 15 about six inches thick right now of information that I've
21:06:15 16 taken both for and against the issue. So we are taking it
21:06:19 17 in. We are very conscious of that from the community.

21:06:24 18 And with that, we are going to close this public
21:06:27 19 meeting, and, again, thank you-all for coming.

21:06:31 20 We are adjourned.

21:06:39 21 (Proceedings ended at 9:06 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON) I, JENNIFER L. CALDWELL, CCR, a
COUNTY OF ISLAND) Notary Public in and for
the State of Washington,
residing at Coupeville in
said county and state, do
hereby certify:

That the foregoing public meeting regarding the
issue of fluoridation within Skagit County was taken
before me on August 15, 2005 and thereafter transcribed
under my direction; that the completed transcript is a
full, true, and accurate translation of the testimony of
the members of the public, The Commissioners, and others
in attendance;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or
counsel of any party to the issue hereto involved or a
relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and
I am not financially interested in the said action or the
outcome thereof;

That I am herewith delivering the completed
transcript via electronic mail to JoAnne Giesbrecht of The
Skagit County Commissioners Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed my official seal this 8th day of September, 2005.

JENNIFER L. CALDWELL
Notary Public in and for the
State of Washington, residing at
Coupeville. Expiration date,
May 19, 2007.

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