

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Health Resources Administration

Division of Dental Health
Preventive Practices Branch
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Refer: PPB-57
July 1973

STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR, FLUORIDE PROJECT
CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Reference is made to Memo PPB-54 of March 1973 titled, "Statement by Director, Fluoride Project, Center for Science in the Public Interest." On November 10, 1972, Dr. Michael Prival, then Director, Fluoride Project, CSPI, responded to a letter addressed to Mr. Ralph Nader concerning fluoridation. To clarify the origin and authorship of the statement, the full text of the letter to which the Director responded and his reply are reproduced herein.

* * * *

October 13, 1972

Mr. Ralph Nader
35 Hillside Avenue
Winstead, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Nader,

A referendum is being held here on fluoridation. Those who support the measure believe that, should it pass, everyone in the area will benefit. And that, should it fail, thousands of people will suffer unnecessary pain, disfigurement and lowered health. Of course, some of the opposition feels exactly the opposite.

But suppose that the supporters are right, and that it fails. Since your acceptance with reservations is quoted and mostly misquoted everywhere, you would have contributed to the increased incidence of excruciating toothaches, extractions, prostheses, and expense. Multiply this in many communities as well as ours.

Now that you have had statements on fluoridation disseminated, you must look into the question as thoroughly as is necessary to carry it all the way. Many people admire you. I, too, am a supporter of your movement. We await your decision.

Should I bring to your attention the studies available to all and to me in particular, I would be repeating what others have done already. I am convinced of the efficacy, safety, saving, etc. of duplicating what occurs naturally in some locations and expect that you will agree.

Please hurry. Every day means more unnecessary misery. Should you be able to make a public statement before November 7th, all the better.

Urgently,

William Loran, D.D.S.

cc: local press

CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

1770 Church Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

(202)332-6000

November 10, 1972

William Loran, D.D.S.
Endodontics
295 Miller Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear Dr. Loran:

Ralph Nader has asked us to reply to your letter on the issue of fluoridation.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest has been studying the issue of fluorides in the environment for the past year. We, like Mr. Nader, have been quite critical of the tactics which many of the promoters of fluoridation have used. The failure of the U.S. Public Health Service to investigate certain criticisms of fluoridation is, we believe, symptomatic of the closed minds of most promoters. We do not believe that the case should ever be completely closed on such important issues of public health. The attitude of the promoters clearly represents an overreaction to the often irresponsible, misleading, and surprisingly successful attacks that have been levelled against this measure.

While remaining critical of the manner in which fluoridation has been promoted, our intensive investigation of this subject leads us to conclude that the known benefits to dental health which fluoridation brings far outweigh any risks which may be involved.

We urge any citizens who are truly concerned about toxic chemicals in the environment to devote their attention to problems which may present real threats to our health - proven hazards in the air we breathe, over-used pesticides and certain food additives are examples. Those who are interested in the safety of our public water supplies should make themselves aware of the shocking condition of these water supplies across the nation. The biological and chemical pollutants that are increasingly finding their way into our drinking water due to gross neglect of our water purification facilities have been well documented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

There are firmly established dangers in the increasing pollution of our drinking water. We do not believe that fluoridation is one of these dangers.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Prival, Ph.D.
Director, Fluoride Project