

# Safe Water Spokane Supports Mayor's Fluoridation Stance

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Safe Water Spokane announced today its appreciation for Mayor Nadine Woodward's strongly-worded concerns about water fluoridation, as stated in her December 2 letter to the City Council.

In the letter, she cited the continuing public opposition to adding fluoridation chemicals to Spokane's water and reminded the Council that "any grant money spent on evaluating a fluoridation system would have to be repaid if we ultimately decide not to install a fluoridation system." Council president Breann Beggs is expected to bring up a resolution authorizing expenditures for the next phase of a cost analysis at the December 14 Council meeting.

"Safe Water Spokane's opposition to fluoridation is centered on science-based health risks, but it's also a complete waste of taxpayers' money," said Jeff Irish, the group's chair. "Ninety-nine percent of the water isn't even ingested, but literally goes down the drain through toilets, showers, car washes and other uses." He also cited a 2020 J.D. Power survey that found that 25% of Americans don't drink any tap water at all.

(<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20200506005012/en/Bottled-Tap-25-Americans-Drink-Tap-Water>)

Three weeks after the Council's September 14 decision to sign a contract with the Arcora Foundation, *Environmental Health News* (<https://www.ehn.org/fluoride-and-childrens-health-2648120286.html>) published an op-ed entitled "**It is time to protect kids' developing brains from fluoride.**" It cited the ever-increasing scientific evidence that ingesting fluoridated water by pregnant women and infants significantly lowers IQs in the children. The authors were three nationally-renowned scientists, Linda Birnbaum, former director of the National Toxicology Program of the National Institutes of Health; Bruce Lanphear, whose landmark studies on lead convinced the EPA there are no safe levels; and Christine Till, co-author of last year's highly acclaimed IQ study (<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2762857>) published in the prestigious *Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics*.

The National Toxicology Program cites over 90 studies showing fluoride's neurotoxicity, the focus of a continuing lawsuit in federal court against the Environmental Protection Agency for allowing fluoridation. The next hearing is scheduled for early January, contradicting Beggs' statement preceding the Council's September 14 vote that the suit was "on the verge of being dismissed." A decision by the judge on whether fluoridation is an unreasonable health risk, which will have nationwide ramifications, is expected by next spring. He has already stated "there is significant evidence" of fluoridation's neurotoxicity and that EPA should "take a second look."

(<https://fluoridealert.org/news/epa-should-reexamine-fluoridated-water-risks-judge-says/>)

"How many alarm bells have to ring before the City Council can hear them?" said Dr. David Graves, a Spokane physician. "The science is making it increasingly evident that clinging to an obsolete, dangerous practice like fluoridation is being on the wrong side of history. It doesn't make any sense to rush headlong into this when the scientific trend shows such a clear risk of harm."

Irish added "This is an ethical issue. Putting any drug in drinking water takes away every citizen's right to choose what drugs they will ingest. It's even worse with fluoride, which is known to cause brain damage. This is especially unfair to low-income families, who can't afford bottled water or expensive filters to avoid fluoridated water to protect their health. They have no choice."

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