

September 5, 2012  
RE: Water Fluoridation

Mayor Adams, Commissioners,

My name is Kylie Menagh-Johnson. I'm a Portland parent and a public health educator. Over the past ten years, I've worked on a lot of issues that affect oral health, including smoke-free bars and getting soda out of schools. I love Portland, I love my kids, and I strive to do everything I can to keep them healthy. That's why I support water fluoridation: because I know it will make our community a healthier place to raise children and for all of us to grow older. As a long-time public health advocate, I've been working and volunteering with the Everyone Deserves Healthy Teeth coalition. The coalition is broad-based and truly represents the community. Members include over 75 local organizations from the education, health, and social justice fields.

Many coalition members deal with the dental health crisis every day. I have heard horrible stories about young children with their teeth rotted down to their gums, or who had to go under general anesthesia to get their teeth pulled. I've heard about the amazing work being done by volunteers, nurses, teachers, and dentists to try to help get children the care they need. I've learned that dental emergencies are the leading type of emergency room visits, and that the safety net programs are all just simply overwhelmed. Many people are working hard to help these kids, but we all agree that it will never be enough until we invest in the most basic preventive service of all: water fluoridation.

Coalition members will be sharing many stories with you at the hearing tomorrow. You will also hear plenty of misinformation about fluoridation. But I can assure you, I've looked at the research myself and, as a parent, it was very reassuring to see that the only documented health outcome from water fluoridation is fewer cavities.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That is why we encourage you to adopt community water fluoridation. It has been proven to be safe and effective with over 3000 studies and 65 years of experience. It will reduce tooth decay by at least 25 percent in both adults and children, and it will especially help the most vulnerable among us. It is the most equitable solution. It is the most cost-effective solution. As a community, we can easily afford it, but we cannot afford to let the dental health crisis continue.

I love this city and am so happy to be raising my children here. Water fluoridation will make this an even better place for families, and, really, for all of us.

Thank you,  
Kylie Menagh-Johnson, MPH  
4826 NE Mason St.  
Portland, OR 97218

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Kylie Menagh-Johnson [kyliemenaghjohnson@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2012 2:34 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Sept 5 Hearing

Hello Karla,

I'd like to request a three-minute testimony spot in the Hearing on Sept. 5.

Subject: Fluoridation

Kylie Menagh-Johnson, MPH

4826 NE Mason St.

Portland, OR 97218

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**Kylie Menagh-Johnson, MPH**

**iPhone 503.358.6540**

**EVERYONE DESERVES  
HEALTHY TEETH**

Everyone Deserves Healthy Teeth Coalition | website  
everyondeserveshealthyteeth@gmail.com | 971.258.1764

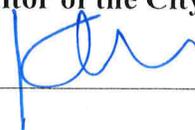
Request of Kylie Menagh-Johnson to address Council regarding fluoridation  
(Communication)

SEP 05 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed AUG 30 2012

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		