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September 21, 2009

Mr. James Robert Deal
P.O. Box 2276
Lynnwood, WA 98036

RE: Water Fluoridation

Dear Mr. Deal:

You have written on two occasions to Alderwood Water & Wastewater District ("AWWD or the "District"), and appeared at least four times before the District's Board of Commissioners. You have provided the District with a number of written materials which challenge the science behind the fluoridation of drinking water, and you have requested that the District take various actions related to the fluoridation of water served by the District to its customers.

The District has not studied these materials in detail, nor has it undertaken its own independent investigation of fluoridation. Rather, the District recognizes that it is unalterably aligned itself with the City of Everett, and any independent action not fully coordinated with the City could jeopardize the District's ability to serve its citizens with safe, moderately-priced water. Accordingly, the District declines to take any of the steps you have suggested, or to do anything further on this subject at this time.

You are well aware that the District purchases essentially all of its water from the City of Everett, and has done so since 1960. This purchase has been governed by long-term wholesale water supply contracts, the latest of which was signed on January 28, 2005, for a term of fifty years.

The Everett-AWWD water supply contract states that Everett shall deliver water that is of the "same standard and quality as normally delivered to the City's other customers," and obligates Everett to "meet ... state and federal standards for drinking water."

All Group A water systems, including Everett and AWWD, must comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (of 1974 with amendments in 1986 and 1996), as administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Washington Administrative Code 246-290, promulgated by the Washington Department of Health. Together, these

governmental agencies specify what Everett and AWWD must do and not do regarding water quality.

These agencies set specific maximum contamination levels (MCL) for 69 chemicals in drinking water. Among those chemicals with a MCL is fluoride (set at 4.0 mg/l). This means that federal and state law allow fluoride to be present (either naturally or added) in drinking water, as long as it does not exceed the MCL.

Further, as you know, Everett's citizens voted in 1990 to fluoridate its water. Thus, the currently-fluoridated water that is provided to AWWD by Everett is the "same quality and standard" provided to its other customers.

Under these circumstances, even *if* the District decided it did not want to provide fluoridated water to its customers, your request that AWWD challenge fluoridation is fraught with legal and practical difficulties. The District has a binding almost fifty-year contract to buy water from Everett. The contract further provides that Everett will be the "primary source of water" for the District. Based on this historical and contracted-for long-term relationship, both Everett and the District have: 1) developed comprehensive engineering and financing plans; 2) built substantial and expensive water systems; and 3) entered into lengthy contracts with bonding authorities and other municipalities.

As a result, the District has no interest in independently (i.e., without coordination and cooperation with Everett), taking the steps you have suggested. Thus, the District respectfully declines to do so, and suggests that you direct any further inquiries regarding fluoridation to the City of Everett.

Very Truly Yours,

ALDERWOOD WATER & WASTEWATER DISTRICT



Donna J. Cross
President, Board of Commissioners