

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2005

Mr. Gary Cummins  
Executive Director  
Colorado Dental Association  
3690 South Yosemite Street, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80237

Dear Mr. Cummins,

We would like to express our support for the use of fluoride in the water systems of Colorado. Community water fluoridation has been cited as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the Centers for Disease Control. In the United States, approximately 145 million people in more than 10,000 communities benefit from drinking fluoridated water. Over 300 million people in more than 40 countries worldwide also enjoy the benefits of fluoridated water.

From an economic standpoint, fluoridation is *not* costly. Depending on a community's size, the type of equipment used and labor costs, water fluoridation costs approximately 20-50 cents per person, per year. Over a lifetime, this is less than the cost of one dental filling to repair one decayed tooth.

The health benefits of fluoride are even greater. Studies show that optimal fluoridation can reduce the amount of decay in children's teeth by as much as 60 percent, and nearly 35 percent in adults. Community water fluoridation benefits everyone, especially those without access to regular dental care. This is the most efficient way to prevent dental disease, while at the same time promoting good oral health in Colorado communities. The science on this issue continues to evolve and we, like you, are committed to protecting public health.

We appreciate your commitment to dental health and commend your efforts to serve Colorado.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Wayne Allard  
U.S. Senator



Ken Salazar  
U.S. Senator

  
Mark Udall  
Member of Congress

  
John Salazar  
Member of Congress

  
Marilyn Musgrave  
Member of Congress

  
Joel Hefley  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Tancredo  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Beauprez  
Member of Congress