

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER**

January 17, 2005 Hearing Room 357

1:00 P.M. Tapes 3 - 5

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**           **Rep. Bob Jenson, Chair**

**Rep. Jerry Krummel, Vice-Chair**

**Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, Vice-Chair**

**Rep. Phil Barnhart**

**Rep. Alan Brown**

**Rep. Billy Dalto**

**Rep. Mike Schaufler**

**STAFF PRESENT:**           **Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator**

**Pamella Andersen, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:**

**Water Fluoridation - Informational Meeting**

**These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.**

<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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**TAPE 3, A**

003	Chair Jenson	Calls the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., explains that there will be invited testimony only. Opens the informational meeting on water fluoridation.
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## WATER FLUORIDATION - INFORMATIONAL MEETING

- 020 Katherine Bradley Administrator Office of Family Health Department of Human Services (DHS). Submits and reads prepared testimony in support of HB 2025 (**EXHIBIT A**). Explains the initiatives that the Office of Family Health. Details the Early Childhood Cavity Prevention Program, Oral Health Program, and the Drinking Water Programs.
- 065 Chair Jenson Invites Rep. Dalto to make opening comments.
- 066 Rep. Dalto Expresses gratitude for addressing the issue so quickly.
- 070 Bradley Expands on the 2001 SMILE survey and the percentage of children who have tooth decay. References the Goal for Public Drinking 2010.
- 099 Chair Jenson Inquires if the data on the percentage of children living in communities that do not have fluoridated drinking water and have tooth decay is available.
- 103 Bradley Responds that she will provide the information.
- 106 Rep. Dalto Asks how many communities do not currently have local fluoridation.
- 108 Bradley Answers that approximately 23 communities have fluoridation.
- 116 Rep. Dalto Questions the cost to communities to prepare the infrastructure.
- 118 Bradley Answers that the current minimum estimate is \$2.8 million for equipment and the cost of fluoride chemicals is \$1.3 million, which is an annual cost.
- 119 Rep. Dalto Asks if that is for all the cities that do not currently have fluoridation or is that per water system.
- 120 Dave Leland Manager Drinking Water Program, DHS. Responds that the cost estimates are the basic costs for equipment and one year of chemicals. He explains that the minimal costs and there would be additional costs. He adds that approximately 29 communities do not currently have fluoride.

140	Rep. Dalto	Requests that DHS entertain the possibility of having private interests help manage the costs of implementing this program.
154	Chair Jenson	Questions if the \$2.8 million is a statewide or community cost.
159	Leland	Replies that the costs are for communities that do not currently fluoridate, "from whatever source of funding it comes from."
161	Chair Jenson	Inquires if there is a breakdown of a per community cost for the 29 communities.
165	Leland	Answers that those numbers are available and he will provide it for committee members.
170	Rep. Dingfelder	Wonders if the state will be paying for the cost of fluoridation in the communities that already have it.
175	Leland	Responds affirmatively.
176	Rep. Dingfelder	Comments on how the communities are paying for water fluoridation and how that compares to the per capita cost that were identified.
180	Leland	Acknowledges that Rep. Dingfelder's point. States that communities recover their costs from rate payers. Provides Beaverton and Salem as examples.
185	Rep. Brown	Asks if any of the communities currently using fluoride have less than 10,000 population.
186	Leland	Answers affirmatively that some are smaller, and notes that a list of communities will be provided.
188	Rep. Barnhart	Asks how many people will be impacted by the bill.
190	Leland	Responds that this information will be provided.
193	Rep. Schaufler	States that in his water district they adjust the amount of fluoride in water. Inquires if there are any other districts that do this and if that procedure impacts the cost.

- 200 Leland Replies that this is true for any community that adds fluoride. Fluoride is a natural element that is already in water, and the amount of fluoride is adjusted according to how much is in the water naturally.
- 241 Rep. Krummel Requests a listing of the double-blind studies that have been conducted on fluoridation that show if it has been effective along with the effective levels of fluoridation.
- 260 Rep. Barnhart Notes the informational contained in *Issues of Water Fluoridation (EXHIBIT B)* from Citizen for Safe Drinking Water. Inquires if there is a response to the congressional investigation (**EXHIBIT B, Page 9**).
- 270 Bradley Responds that she is not familiar with the list, but will look at it. States that there is considerable scientific evidence we can provide to the committee.
- 280 Rep. Barnhart Asks if they agree or disagree with the conclusions in (**EXHIBIT B**), and on what they base their opinion.
- 290 Chair Jenson Requests data be provided by Wednesday meeting, if possible.
- 295 Jane Myers Director of Government Affairs for the Oregon Dental Association (ODA), introduces Dr. William TenPas. Submits and reads prepared testimony in support of water fluoridation (**EXHIBIT D**).
- 315 William TenPas Senior Vice President for the Oregon Dental Service (ODS). Discusses the fact that optimal water fluoridation prevents tooth decay is well-supported by science. States that water fluoridation is not costly to initiate, benefits community residents, and that water fluoridation has contributed to reduced dental care costs.
- 390 TenPass Discusses the importance HB 2025, and notes support of the bill.
- 395 Myers Conveys the safety of fluoridation. Gives the definition of water fluoridation and the definition of optimal amounts as established by the U.S. Public Health Service.

#### **TAPE 4, A**

- 011 Myers

		Continues reading from prepared testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT D</b> ). Refers to the study on tooth decay by Thomas G. Reeves ( <b>EXHIBIT C</b> ) and gives a summary of the conclusions.
070	TenPass	Continues testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT D</b> ). Reviews the statistics and recommends passage of HB 2025.
125	Myers	Refers to the letter regarding the safety of the fluoride used ( <b>EXHIBIT D, Page 7</b> ). Also refers to the list of organizations who support water fluoridation ( <b>EXHIBIT E</b> ).
130	Rep. Schaufler	Declares potential conflict of interest. Inquires if there are numbers on loss productivity.
135	TenPass	Responds that children miss 3.1 days per hundred, and adults miss 1.7 to 1.9 days of work annually because of tooth infection and decay.
140	Rep. Schaufler	Inquires if a child in school with toothache causes other problems.
142	TenPass	Responds affirmatively. Problems include learning, behavior, nutrition, willingness to go to school, esteem problems, and other diseases.
150	Rep. Krummel	Asks for the scientific name of fluoride.
170	TenPass	Responds that it is Fluorosilicic acid.
172	Rep. Krummel	Questions if it is fat soluble or water soluble.
180	TenPas	Answers that the acid is condensed and then put into the system as a solid.
189	Rep. Krummel	Inquires if it is added to the system as a solid and remains suspended in water.
192	TenPas	Explains the dispersement process.
195	Rep. Krummel	Questions the level of fluoride rises in the body when fluoride is ingested, or if the excess is excreted by the body.

198	TenPas	Responds that some is excreted and some is maintained.
209	Rep. Dingfelder	Questions how other nations deal with fluoride and if he can provide the committee with a percentage of other nations who fluoridate their water.
212	TenPas	Responds that he will provide a report on water fluoridation <b>(EXHIBIT H)</b> .
225	Rep. Dalto	Inquires if he has information on fluoride allergies.
229	Myers	Responds that ODS has. The National Association of Physicians, who specialize in allergy problems, has not found a connection of allergic reactions to in water fluoridation. The information can be provided to the committee.
266	Rep. Krummel	Notes products on market that have fluoride as ingredients. Wonders about the efficacy of products that are used topically.
270	TenPas	Responds that efficacy and efficiency are two things that need to be reviewed.
310	Rep. Krummel	Gives an example of a Wilsonville business that requires high quality water. Inquires how fluoride will affect those types of businesses.
333	TenPas	Responds that he is not familiar with the company, but notes dental offices treat their water.
340	Rep. Dalto	Questions how fluoride affects food service preparation.
359	TenPas	Remarks that it does not break the fluoride down or eliminate it. It will stay in the system.
377	Ken Strobeck	The League of Oregon Cities. Submits and presents written testimony in opposition of HB 2025 <b>(EXHIBIT F)</b> . Testifies in opposition of HB 2025 noting concerns about local control and finances.

**TAPE 3, B**

022	Strobeck	Continues and suggests that a program be established to provide the funding for the equipment and ongoing operations for communities who choose to participate.
080	Strobeck	Discusses the cost to the City of Salem and to the City of Beaverton to begin fluoridation.
100	Chair Jenson	Inquires if the communities that decide not to fluoridate should be charged for the extra cost to the Oregon Health Plan.
110	Strobeck	Responds that it would not be fair make them pay a fee for not fluoridating their water. Remarks these are decisions that are made by individual communities and need to be honored.
121	Chair Jenson	Conveys that the issue gets complicated when you review the information that states that there seems to be a substantial cost to the Oregon in terms of the Oregon Health Plan and the citizens.
139	Greg Baker	Executive Director of the Special Districts Association of Oregon. Submits and presents written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT G)</b> .
141	Rep. Schaufler	Clarifies that there is already fluoride in the water and they adjust it to bring the amount of fluoride down.
150	Baker	Discusses the historical position of the Special Districts Association. States that this is a contentious issue for the districts and the public. Notes the Special Districts do not have an official position at this time.
178	Mike McArthur	Executive Director of the Association of Oregon Counties. Clarifies that counties are generally not involved in providing water, but a few are. Comments that the association has not taken an official position on this bill, but concurs with Mr. Strobeck that it should be a local decision.
256	Lynne Campbell	Executive Director of Oregon Citizens for Safe Drinking Water. Refers to <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> .
247	Chair Jenson	Chair declares recess.
250	J. William Hirzy,	Vice President of National Treasury Employee Union Chapter 280. Submits and presents prepared testimony in opposition to water

fluoridation (**EXHIBIT I**). Provides information on the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the union. Discusses EPA research that will be released in the near future.

309 Hirzy States that the union opposes drinking water fluoridation. Expands on the seven questions outlined in (**EXHIBIT I**). Gives reasons why the union is opposed to fluoridation in drinking water.

#### **TAPE 4, B**

003 Rep. Schaufler Requests written documentation of findings.

005 Hirzy Responds that Ms. Campbell has provided the written version of his testimony with citations. States that the information can be provided to the committee.

015 Rep. Schaufler States that the United States Health and Human Services Department, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), every US Surgeon General since the 1950's support Fluoridation. Questions why all these agencies support it if it is so bad.

028 Hirzy States that government hates to admit when it makes a mistake. They supported it before all research was finished and then quit investigating adverse health effects. In August of 2001 the CDC admitted they had their original theory was wrong and that fluoride needs to be topical to be effective.

076 Hirzy Continues to present written testimony (**EXHIBIT I**).

120 Rep. Krummel Asks how the phosphate industry will benefit from water fluoridation.

125 Hirzy Explains that the chemical used in fluoridation systems is hydrofluosilicic acid. Continues explanation.

176 Rep. Krummel Asks if arsenic appears in the fluoridated surface water.

180 Hirzy Responds that it is an unavoidable contaminant in the product.

189 Rep. Krummel States that earlier testimony reflected that fluoride is excreted by the body. Compares this to Mr. Hirzy's statement that toxicity levels go up because it is not excreted by the body.



186	Hirzy	Responds with a detailed explanation of adult and children retention rates.
235	Rep. Krummel	Notes his confusion on the bone density explanation. Explains how he understands the explanation.
242	Hirzy	Clarifies by stating that bone density does not necessarily correlate with bone strength.
251	Rep. Dalto	Inquires in Mr. Hirzy's degree.
253	Hirzy	Responds that he has a Ph.D. in chemistry.
263	Rep Dalto	Asks if Mr. Hirzy has done any work in bone science.
279	Hirzy	Admits that he has not, but his knowledge is from following the literature.
280	Rep. Dalto	Wonders if a dentist that prescribes fluoride doing something that they should not be doing.
300	Hirzy	States that there is a difference between what dentists prescribe and what is introduced in water.
325	Rep. Dalto	Requests additional explanation of the difference between the chemical that is being prescribed and the chemical used in water systems.
331	Hirzy	Explains that he is not sure of the precise chemical that is used in dentists offices, but he knows it is chemically pure.
345	Rep. Dalto	Asks Mr. Hirzy to explain how he can suggest that the kind of fluoride dentists use is different than water fluoridation, if he does not know the chemical in the prescribed fluoride.
356	Hirzy	Emphasizes that the chemical is hydrofluosilicic acid and that is going in the fluoridation systems.

**TAPE 5, A**

005	Rep. Schaufler	Comments on the development and process of getting the fluoride into the water. Draws a comparison between chlorine and fluoride.
008	Hirzy	Responds that chlorine is put in the water to treat the water, and fluoride is put in the water to treat people.
015	Chair Jenson	Requests that Ms. Campbell give her testimony Wednesday January 19, 2005.
033	Chair Jenson	Closes the informational meeting on water fluoridation and adjourns the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

### **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

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- A. **Water Fluoridation, written testimony, Katherine Bradley, 2 pp**
- B. **Water Fluoridation, Issues of Water Fluoridation informational material, Lynne Campbell, 90 pp**
- C. **Water Fluoridation, How Tooth Decay Occurs report, Jane Myers, 7 pp**
- D. **Water Fluoridation, written testimony, Jane Myers, 9 pp**
- E. **Water Fluoridation, list of organizations endorsing fluoridation, Jane Myers, 3 pp**
- F. **Water Fluoridation, written testimony, Ken Strobeck, 3 pp**
- G. **Water Fluoridation, written testimony, Greg Baker, 1 p**
- H. **Water Fluoridation, Water Fluoridation Report, Bill TenPas, 5 pp**
- I. **Water Fluoridation, written testimony, J. William Hirzy, Ph.D., 9 pp**