

**Chairperson Honorable Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary of Environmental Protection**  
**Honorable EQB Board Members and Alternates**  
**Governor's Office of Policy and Planning**  
**Citizen's Advisory Council**  
**Honorable Members of the General Assembly**

**Subject: The History of Water Fluoridation**

No discussion of public policy is complete without an examination of its origins. Fortunately, the groundbreaking book *The Fluoride Deception* by award-winning investigative journalist Christopher Bryson provides a meticulously documented account of the history of water fluoridation. Bryson, a former BBC producer, spent ten years researching this topic. I encourage you to view his powerful interview, where he brings the facts to light.

[The Fluoride Deception: an interview with Christopher Bryson](#)

One of the key historical events highlighted in the book is the Donora, Pennsylvania air pollution disaster of 1948—the worst air pollution event in American history. Tragically, this catastrophic event remains virtually unknown to the public, rarely mentioned in Pennsylvania history books, and to the best of my knowledge, is not included in our educational curriculum. The lethal agent in the toxic emissions was fluoride, found at deadly levels in the blood of victims. At the time, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was preparing to roll out Community Water Fluoridation (CWF), and the revelation of fluoride's role in Donora would have been detrimental to its public narrative.

In 2023, I participated in a Capitol event with the PA Chapter of Children's Health Defense to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Donora disaster. It was troubling to discover how few people were aware of this historic tragedy. [PA CHD Commemorates Donora: the Worst Pollution Disaster in US History - Children's Health Defense Pennsylvania Chapter](#)

To understand how we arrived at the policy of CWF, we must confront the illogical foundation upon which it was built. The addition of a toxic industrial byproduct—unnecessary for water safety—under the label of a “dental treatment” is not only scientifically dubious but morally indefensible. Bryson's research reveals that water fluoridation was never truly about dental health; rather, it served as a convenient solution for industries struggling with perpetual fluoride pollution and injury lawsuits. It became a case of “solution through dilution.”

One telling anecdote Bryson recounts involves an industrial injury lawsuit, where a company attorney threw a tube of toothpaste on the table in front of the jury and declared, “Fluoride couldn't have injured these men—it's in toothpaste!”

The American Dental Association (ADA) has played a key role in defending fluoride use. In 1936, Charles Kettering—industrialist and freon magnate—joined the ADA’s advisory committee, which later promoted fluoride. The ADA received \$25,000 with the promise to “secure sufficient information.” As Bryson states:

“In other words, the millionaire industrialist with one of the greatest personal stakes in the commercial exploitation of fluorides was quietly donating to the dental organization that would shortly become one of the most aggressive boosters of fluoride’s use in dentistry.”  
(*The Fluoride Deception*, p. 43)

I urge you to examine the uncontested historical record presented in *The Fluoride Deception*. It is now our responsibility to correct these historical wrongs and protect the Pennsylvanians who have long gone unprotected. I respectfully call for a pause in Community Water Fluoridation until the legislature can reassess this outdated policy—or until the conclusion of *Food & Water Watch, et al. v. the Environmental Protection Agency*.

Thank you for your time, your service to the Commonwealth, and your dedication to the health and well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

**Sincerely,**

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