



January 2016

### **Support of Community Water Fluoridation**

Oral Health Nevada Inc. supports community water fluoridation as a sound, population-based public health measure. We encourage eligible communities to begin and maintain fluoridation in drinking water systems. Community water fluoridation began in the United States more than 70 years ago.

Water fluoridation is cost-effective, practical, and safe. People who live in communities with fluoridated water are more likely to have healthier teeth than those living in communities without fluoridated water. Tooth decay is a preventable, chronic disease that impacts almost everyone. Exposure to optimally fluoridated water improves dental health. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that strengthens the enamel of teeth. When in contact with teeth, it helps to repair early signs of tooth decay, hardens the tooth's surface, and slows decay-causing bacteria.

Community water fluoridation is a public health prevention measure that benefits all residents, regardless of age, race, gender, income or ability to access professional dental care. It is the most effective way to deliver the benefits of fluoride to everyone.

Every Surgeon General of the United States for the past 50 years has supported water fluoridation and over one hundred national and international organizations endorse it. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes fluoridation of drinking water as one of ten great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Evidence shows that for most communities, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves \$38 in unnecessary dental treatment costs. Today, fluoridated water systems serve nearly 75 percent of the U.S. population. In Nevada, just 73 percent of our residents are served by fluoridated community water systems – ranking the state 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation. We can do better and we must do better. We support the valuable role fluoridation plays in improving the oral health of our residents.

Approved by the Oral Health Nevada Inc. Board of Directors on January 21, 2016