

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1605
Human Services Committee
February 3, 2025

Lisa Botnen, Environmental Management Director
City of Grand Forks, ND

Chairman Ruby, members of the committee. Please accept my written testimony in opposition of HB 1605.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in air, water, soil, and various foods. Adding fluoride at appropriate levels to drinking water is a cost-effective public health measure. It prevents tooth decay and promotes long-term oral health. Access to fluoridated water can also help reduce health inequities across communities. The decision to add fluoride to public water supply systems is currently made at the local level. This allows decision makers to engage directly with the citizens they serve to determine the best policy for the community. HB 1605 removes local governments' ability to be responsive to its citizens' needs and adapt to the unique circumstances of each community.

Thank you for your consideration in ensuring local governments continue to have the ability to tailor policies that best fit their local demographics and maintain the ability to be responsive to citizens' needs.

Respectfully,
Lisa Botnen
Environmental Management Director
City of Grand Forks