JUNEAU FLUORIDE STUDY COMMISSION

REPORT TO ASSEMBLY
OF THE
CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

JULY 11, 2006

EXHIBIT H
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Letter
To Bart Rozell (Jan. 12, 2005) Supporting Fluoridation
Bart Rozell, Chair  
Juneau Fluoridation Task Force  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Rozell:

I am writing to ask you to help improve the health of Alaska Natives and all people living here in our state by continuing to fluoridate Juneau's water.

There have been over 60 studies published in peer review, scientific journals, that attest to the safety and effectiveness of water fluoridation. Collectively, these studies have shown that water fluoridation prevents 40% - 60% of tooth decay. While there is considerable anecdotal literature about fluoride there has never been a study published in a recognized peer review journal that substantiates any of the claims that water fluoridation is unsafe or ineffective. Virtually every public health minded organization in the US supports water fluoridation as the most cost effective and safest means to prevent decay, including the Surgeon General, the US Public Health Service, the American Dental Association, the American Medical Association, the American Dental Hygiene Association, and the Centers for Disease Control just to name a few.

Removing the fluoride from Juneau's water supply could effectively double the dental decay rate for those persons who use this as a potable drinking water supply. Children who now have 2-3 cavities would come to have 4-6. Every dollar spent on fluoridation prevents over $100 of dental work. So the costs of discontinuing fluoridation, when expanded over a population like Juneau's, could be enormous. In addition, because of Juneau's leadership role throughout the state, other municipalities may follow Juneau's decision. This could prove disastrous for Alaska Natives and others who have little access to dental care.

I implore you to consider these ramifications in making this important decision. We desperately need to continue to use this proven prevention tool. Please contact me at (907) 729-3645 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ron Nagel, DDS MPH  
ANTHC Area Prevention Officer