

722 Yama Street
Yreka, California 96097
March 13, 1970

Mr. Joshua Lederberg
"Science and Man"
The Chronicle Publishing Company
901 Mission Street
San Francisco, California 94119

Dear Mr. Lederberg:

I have just sent for a copy of your column on fluoridation which appeared in the March 23, 1969 issue of Sunday Punch in the Chronicle.

Fluoridation is on the ballot next month and we are trying to make people aware of its possible dangers. We are hoping to put some paid ads in our local paper and would like your permission to quote your article or parts of it.

We will appreciate your answer at your earliest possible moment as time is short. Some people are reluctant to speak out against it and we are most grateful your article has been printed. I would be pleased to have your degree or degrees listed for these nonbelievers, if you will pardon me for asking.

A self addressed envelope is enclosed for your early reply. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Yreka Citizens Opposed to Fluoridation

Lois Y. Haraden
(Mrs.) Lois Y. Haraden

Prof. Joshua Lederberg Ph.D., Sc.D.,
Department of Genetics M.D. (hon.c.)
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

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It would be easy for my position to be misunderstood, and you are not the first person that I have confused. Most people seem to feel that "fluoride" is either very bad or absolutely wonderful; and I am among ~~small group~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ who accept neither position. All things considered, I would advocate the fluoridation of water supplies, in the belief that the benefits outweigh the hazards. However, if a substantial minority opposes it, I do not think the benefits are so great that fluoridation should be imposed on that minority against its will. ~~xxxxxxx~~ I believe that most of the opposition to fluoridation is misinformed. There are nevertheless more gaps in our knowledge about its effects than there should be for such an important question. (Unfortunately I would have to say the same about many other aspects of our daily experience.)

You are welcome to reprint this note in its entirety, and if you wish also any part of the columns mentioned above. I fear that my position would be confused further if you did not include the above paragraph.

Sincerely, *Joshua Lederberg*