

PRESS RELEASE:

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FROM: Clallam County Citizens for Safe Drinking Water

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For background see: www.yes4cleanwater.org.

TODAY, 10/18/2010, SEVEN ORGANIZATIONS JOINED IN SUPPORT OF PORT ANGELES CITIZEN PETITIONERS, Our Water-Our Choice! and Protect Our Waters, in a request to the state Supreme Court to re-consider its denial of allowing two initiatives on the ballot.

Two of the supporting organizations are international, one is in Oregon, two are in Washington state and two are in Clallam County. There is widespread concern that errors in the 5 to 4 Opinion of the Supreme Court, unless corrected, will severely erode the powers granted by the state legislature regarding local initiatives and referendums.

Five justices issued their Opinion that the initiatives could not proceed to the ballot because "they attempt to interfere with and effectively reverse the implementation of Port Angeles' water fluoridation," Petitioners argue, on reconsideration, that such fluoridation is erroneously considered as if it were the only substance dealt with by the initiatives. Petitioners argue that current state law does not bar initiatives that permanently regulate a new class of substances and that the initiatives, by permanently regulating any person from putting any medicating substance in Port Angeles' public drinking waters, do permanently regulate a new class of substances. Petitioners argue that because the five justices only consider that the initiatives regulate fluoridation, they misinterpret the initiatives, and wrongly bar them from the ballot. Four justices appreciated this difference and signed a Dissent declaring that the initiatives "must proceed to the ballot."

"Utility laws are not adequate to protect all consumers from harmful effects of putting medications in drinking water," said Gerald Steel, attorney for Amici Applicant Clallam County Citizens for Safe Drinking Water, a Port Angeles organization advocating safe drinking water. "Infants and small children are currently being overdosed by fluoride in drinking water as are any persons consuming large amounts of water," said Steel. The additive, fluorosilicic acid, used in Port Angeles fluoridation, contains many pollutants ; it is not even pharmaceutical grade," said Steel.

The other Amici Applicants joining the request are:

1. The International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (which has fourteen independent chapters worldwide and is guided by world leaders in biochemistry, toxicology, and environmental medicine) and is concerned about health risks from fluoridation.
2. Fluoride Action Network ("FAN") which is a highly credentialed anti-fluoridation international coalition with a famous web site: www.fluoridealert.org
3. Oregon Citizens for Safe Drinking Water which is a citizen organization opposed to mandatory statewide fluoridation in Oregon.
4. Washington Action for Safe Water which is a citizen group with a statewide perspective , opposed to medication of people through their drinking water.
5. Whidbey Environmental Action Network which is a citizen group concerned about human health as well as the environment.
6. Protect the Peninsula's Future (PPF) which focuses on health and environmental concerns that impact the North Olympic Peninsula.
7. Clallam County Citizens for Safe Drinking Water, the local group that wrote and qualified the initiatives. See www.yes4cleanwater.org