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I have been a general dentist practicing in Portland Maine for 11 years. In all of my studies the importance of fluoride in water has been taught as a vital part of tooth development and strengthening in children. The ingestion of fluoride as a child strengthens the enamel of forming teeth. This has been scientifically proven. It is a completely different benefit than fluoride in toothpaste. I have also studied personally the link of childhood caries and socioeconomic status. Many children in rural areas are on well water and do not have access to fluoride in their water. The addition to fluoride in water vs children without fluoride has greatly decreased childhood caries and I see this in my practice every single day. Fluoride is a natural occurring element, it is in our food and soil and the amount added to our water is a safe controlled amount. I would like to ask for you to research on your own what kind of negative impact fluoride has actually caused. The benefits far outweigh the risks and I would hate to work in a future where we take a step back in time to when we didn't have this benefit because I know I will see a substantial increase in decay in the future.