



## Coalition of African American Pastors

May 11, 2015

Rep. Barry Loudermilk, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Oversight / Science, Space, & Technology Committee  
238 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Request for Fluoridegate Hearings by the House Subcommittee on Oversight

Dear Rep. Loudermilk:

Allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Rev. William (Bill) Owens, President of the Coalition of African American Pastors. The thousands of pastors in our group are found in your state, Georgia, and also all across the United States.

The reason I am writing is to ask that your subcommittee on Oversight investigate the growing Fluoridegate scandal. We need Fluoridegate hearings. You may have seen the increasing coverage in the media about possible avenues of harm from drinking fluoridated water (Newsweek, WebMD, etc). Now, there are Freedom of Information Act documents that have come to light, showing that our government agencies such as the CDC, HHS, etc have not told us the whole story about fluorides.

African Americans should have been told that we are disproportionately harmed by "dental fluorosis," the disfigurement of teeth caused by overexposure to fluorides as a young child. And who among us was told that kidney patients, diabetics, seniors, and children are susceptible subgroups that are especially vulnerable to harm from fluorides? There are more patients with kidney disease and diabetes in the black community, and this is all the more reason federal officials should have told us that kidney patients and diabetics are especially vulnerable to harm. Additionally, low income families often times lack the resources to purchase unfluoridated water or a filtration system to remove fluoride from drinking water.

The Fluoridegate scandal needs to be investigated. This will benefit every racial and ethnic group, the young and old, the wealthy and the poor. Will you be sure that your Oversight Subcommittee does an investigation, and does so apart from undue influence from the dental lobby, or from the CDC that is located in Georgia?

I thank you for your time and attention given this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Owens". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William (Bill) Owens