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**Fluoride Action
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Press Release

Director of Arizona State University Forensics Department, Adam Symonds,
to moderate formal debate on water fluoridation

Phoenix, Arizona; August 15, 2012: On September 11, 2012 at 10:00 am, the Phoenix Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, chaired by Phoenix City Councilwoman Thelda Williams, will hear and vote on the issue of continued fluoridation of the City's water supply.

A group of Phoenix residents has expressed numerous concerns to the City Council and the City of Phoenix Water Services Department that only two experts who favor fluoridation are being allocated a block of time to make presentations at the City's Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee before the meeting is opened for public comment.

Upon further investigation, this appeared to be a repeat of events in late 1988 and January 1989 when Phoenix originally considered the issue of whether to fluoridate the City's water supply. Thelda Williams was also on the City Council then and was a strong advocate for adoption of fluoridation. Before the day the City Council met and voted, there was a six-hour public hearing October 13, 1988, when only pro-fluoridation experts were given an hour to make presentations before the public had an opportunity to give input.

In order to provide the public a fair and balanced presentation of the facts, Phoenix residents have scheduled two prominent speakers to debate followed by an extended period of audience participation with questions and answers. **This public debate is likely to be the first such debate on this subject ever held in the country.** It will be held:

September 5, 2012

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Phoenix College's Bulpitt Auditorium

1202 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85013

The two experts will be:

Dr. Paul Connett, Ph.D. retired full professor of environmental chemistry and toxicology at St. Lawrence University in New York State. He obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry from Dartmouth College. For many years, Dr. Connett held the prevailing American view that

people opposed to fluoridation were scientifically ill-informed. At his wife's (Ellen) urging, he studied the primary literature on fluoridation for 14 years. His perception dramatically changed. He is the Director of the Fluoride Action Network (FAN). He is co-author of the book, *The Case Against Fluoride: How Hazardous Waste Ended Up in Our Drinking Water and the Bad Science and Powerful Politics That Keep it There* (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2010). Dr. Connett will take the position opposed to fluoridation.

Dr. Howard Farran, DDS, MBA, MAGD, is a member of the American Dental Association and also the Arizona Dental Association. He is a dentist in private practice at Today's Dental in the Ahwatukee/Phoenix area. Dr. Farran obtained his dental degree from the University of Missouri School of Dentistry in Kansas City. He earned his master's degree in business administration from Arizona State University and also achieved his Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Farran has achieved high acclaim over the years. He was named Alumni of the Year by the University of Missouri and Dentist of the Year by Arizona Public Health. In addition, he was given the Arizona Award by the Arizona State Dental Association for outstanding contributions made to the profession of dentistry because of his efforts to fluoridate the water of Phoenix. He was one of the original proponents of the City of Phoenix fluoridating its water supply, and will speak in favor of fluoridation at the debate.

Moderating and hosting the debate will be **Adam Symonds**. Mr. Symonds is the Director of Forensics at Arizona State University. He was the national Cross-Examination Debate Association National Champion in 1999. Mr. Symonds has coached numerous top 10 teams in National Collegiate Policy Debate. He holds a bachelor's degree in Politics from Whitman College, a master's degree in Human Communication from CSU Fullerton, and is currently writing his dissertation to complete his doctorate in Communication from the University of Southern California.

This formal debate on fluoridation of the water supply in Phoenix is open to the public and there is no charge for attendance. It promises to be a lively, stimulating, and thought-provoking debate and anyone with an interest in this subject is invited to attend.

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