



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
*For science. For action. For health.*

Kathy Lituri, MPH, RDH  
Chair, Oral Health Section APHA

September 22, 2015

Dear Kathy and members of the Oral Health Section,

Yesterday the Executive Board met and discussed at length the status of Ed Begley's invitation to address our membership at the Opening General Session of our Annual Meeting in Chicago. All board members had an opportunity to share their perspectives. It was clear that each of us had wrestled with what stance to take.

The board decided not to withdraw the invitation to Mr. Begley to speak on climate change. In moving forward, we agreed to appoint a subcommittee of the board that will work on how best to make it clear that Mr. Begley's views on community water fluoridation are not shared by APHA. The committee will also help articulate what other approaches we can employ to continue to strongly support our joint efforts in community water fluoridation and the messaging about this critical public health program. A number of options were suggested by board members that we will be carefully examining. Our discussion does not end, but our decision regarding Mr. Begley's invitation has been made.

Lynn Bethel will be one of the members of this subcommittee. I'm confident that she will be a strong advocate for the Oral Health Section. I hope we can count on your input.

I thank you for the tremendous advocacy that was done by your members and others to remind our board about the positive public health impact community water fluoridation has made over the past 70 years and to put before us your concerns about Mr. Begley's presence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Aaltonen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Aaltonen, PhD, RN  
Chairperson  
APHA Executive Board