



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 22, 2011

The Honorable James Garrity, Chairman  
Science, Technology and Energy Committee  
Room 304 , Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: HB 608 – An act establishing a committee to study the health and environmental effects of using industrial-grade silicofluorides and industrial-grade sodium fluorides for water fluoridation in New Hampshire**

Dear Chairman Garrity:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 608, which would establish a committee to study both the health and environmental effects associated with the use of “industrial-grade” silico and sodium fluorides in municipal water systems. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) does not believe that this legislation is necessary because the public health and environmental considerations relative to these compounds are being reasonably addressed at the national level.

The purity and public safety of silico and sodium fluoride chemicals used in drinking water must adhere to national standards that are incorporated by reference in DES rules (Env-Ws 305 and 307). In particular, the National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) have established national standards for these fluoride compounds used in the drinking water industry. AWWA and ANSI have jointly adopted chemical quality standards for fluorosilicic acid, sodium fluoride, and sodium fluorosilicate and the NSF Standard 60 provides testing standards for direct additives to potable water, including fluoride. These nationally recognized organizations continue to research and study both the health and environmental effects of these chemicals.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to comment, and please call Sarah Pillsbury at 271-1168 or me at 271-2958 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Rep. L. Christiansen