

TRUMBULL TOWN COUNCILMAN TESTIFIES BEFORE FDA

TRUMBULL, CT., December 14, 2010 - A Trumbull town councilman was in Washington today to testify before an advisory committee of the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Michael J. London testified before the FDA panel as a representative of his constituents in Trumbull. He is an elected member of the Trumbull Town Council in the sixth district.

London also testified as a representative of the national organization, State and Local Public Officials Mercury-Free Caucus, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition made up of current and former office holders from states and municipalities throughout the United States. The organization is bipartisan.

“My constituents are concerned about environmental pollution that results from mercury entering drinking water,” London said to the committee. “Whenever and wherever possible, we think mercury should be discontinued in favor of viable alternatives.”

He called on the FDA to enact stringent regulations to restrict use of dental mercury so that the burden of such regulation does not fall upon states or municipalities.

During his testimony, London held up some extracted teeth given him by a Connecticut dentist, and questioned why the federal government treats the teeth, which contain mercury fillings, as hazardous waste when until now the government has considered them to be perfectly safe if they are residing in a person’s mouth.

“The World Health Organization describes mercury as highly toxic to human health. The Obama administration recognizes that fact and we praise the administration as well as the Environmental Protection Agency for its willingness to seek stricter controls on mercury pollution from the nation’s power plants and other sources,” London added.

The Food and Drug Administration’s advisory committees play an essential role in FDA’s activities to protect and promote public health through the regulation of human and animal drugs, biological products, medical devices, foods, and tobacco products. FDA’s advisory committees provide independent expert advice and recommendations to the Agency on scientific, technical, and policy matters related to FDA-regulated products. Although advisory committees provide recommendations to FDA, FDA makes the final decisions on any matters considered by an advisory committee.