

April 23, 2015

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington D.C. 20240

**Stop the Ban on the Sale of Bottled Water
by the National Parks!**

Dear Director Jarvis:

We, the undersigned owners, suppliers, executives and employees in the U.S. bottled water industry, are concerned about the National Park Service's (NPS) policy authorizing park superintendents to eliminate bottled water sales. We respectfully request an opportunity for a dialogue between the NPS and representatives of the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) to discuss this policy.

The bottled water industry is a strong supporter of our environment and our natural resources. During the past several years, the industry has demonstrated this commitment by significantly reducing the average weight of plastic water bottle containers. Many bottled water companies already use bottles made from 50, 75, and even 100-percent recycled PET (rPET) plastic. Data derived from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) figures demonstrate that plastic water bottles make up less than one-third of one percent of the entire U.S. waste stream. Today, bottled water has the lowest environmental footprint of any packaged beverage.

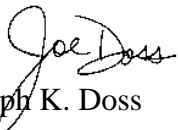
In December 2011, you issued Policy Memorandum 11-03, authorizing park superintendents to eliminate bottled water sales, with approval from their regional director. That Memorandum requires that proposals for bans be based upon a "rigorous" written impact analysis, considering specified factors relating to health and safety, waste reduction, cost, and impacts on concessioners.

Very little information has been made available to the public regarding bottled water bans and their impacts. As a result, it is not clear to what extent the bans may be having adverse impacts on public health and safety, including the extent to which visitors are substituting less healthy beverages for clean, healthy bottled water.

In fact, banning the sale of bottled water in the parks is very difficult to reconcile with the NPS's Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative and its efforts to encourage more healthy food and beverage choices in the parks. Research shows that when bottled water isn't available, 63 percent of people will choose soda or another sugary drink. Banning bottled water sales only hinders efforts to encourage people to choose healthier drink options. If the goal of the NPS is to reduce waste in the parks, we should work together to achieve that goal rather than single out for elimination the healthiest choice among bottled beverages.

With this in mind, we, the undersigned members of IBWA, respectfully request that you provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue between our industry and the NPS. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss how we can work together to help ensure the health, wellness, and safety of visitors to the national parks, in a manner consistent with NPS's mission to preserve the resources and values of the national parks for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of today's and future generations.

Respectfully,



Joseph K. Doss
President and CEO
International Bottled Water Association



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IBWA, 2014-2015 Chairman of the Board

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