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Editor

(submitted using LTE form on website)

Dear Editor,

Bottled water companies, including Nestlé Waters North America (NWNA), have a long-standing and deep commitment to protect the natural resources wherever they operate. They make long-term investments when building their plants and take great care to operate in a responsible and sustainable way to preserve and protect the shared water sources and the surrounding environment. Moreover, most bottled water companies conduct ongoing, regular monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and the local ecosystem to ensure long-term sustainability of the watersheds. This data helps ensure that their withdrawals are sustainable and do not impact neighbors or the environment and that a healthy ecosystem is preserved where they operate.

The bottled water industry supports comprehensive water resources planning and management that is based on sound science, provides equitable treatment of all current and prospective water users, and is multi-jurisdictional in recognition of the geological and geographical nature of aquifers and groundwater sources. In fact, the International Bottled Water Association actively supported enactment and ratification of the Great Lakes Compact in 2008. Current Michigan law holds bottled water to a higher level of scrutiny than other water users. It requires the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to evaluate if the water is safe to drink and that there is no adverse impact to the watershed.

According to MDEQ figures, in 2015, bottled water companies accounted for only 0.01% of all the water used in Michigan. To put that figure into perspective, it would take the city of Detroit only 15 hours to use the total amount of water that the entire bottled water industry uses in Michigan in one year. In addition, it's important for your readers to know that most of the bottled water produced in Michigan is consumed in Michigan.

We support MDEQ's continued commitment to a careful, thorough, and transparent review of NWNA's permit application in accordance with current Michigan law and regulations.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Doss

President and CEO

International Bottled Water Association