



March 15, 2021

Dear friends,

I am writing on behalf of a group of organizations in the United States and Canada actively campaigning to end Nestle's extraction of water for bottling from their communities. As you may know, Nestle has recently announced the sale of its North American waters business to two private equity firms for US\$4.3 billion, one of the largest transfers of private water wealth in recent memory. We are writing to ask for your public support for and solidarity with our efforts.

Specifically, your organization can support people in communities in Canada and the US by seeking the return of Nestlé's properties to public control and stewardship and endorsing these three demands of the company:

1. Return to public stewardship the sites where Nestle' extracts water for bottling, and specifically return the Aberfoyle complex in Wellington County, Ontario, Canada to Six Nations of the Grand River.
2. Restore the sources of these troubled waters and renew investment in public water infrastructure to ensure affordable, accessible and clean water for all.
3. Fulfill any outstanding commitments to local communities and bind the purchasers of Nestlé's assets to fully fulfill any ongoing environmental or community benefit agreements.

In addition we ask that your organization raise the following questions through any public media and legislative means at your disposal:

- Is Nestle' selling the land, wells, permits and contracts to the private equity firms, or only the facilities, operations and brands?
- Will Nestle' "invest all the money they withdraw from (US and Canada) in the emerging countries in order to provide the population of these countries with access to water" as stated publicly (Feb 19, SRF) by Hans-Peter Portmann (FDP/ZH)
- Can the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency-SDC be trusted to protect the right of communities around the world to access free and clean drinking water when Christian Frutiger, (former Head of Nestle' Public Affairs) serves as it Vice-Director?

Our full requests of the company were outlined in a letter to CEO Ulf Mark Schneider in October of this past year. [You can access that letter here](#). We would be pleased for your

endorsement of our demands and should you wish to join your signature, please contact Brett Chamberlin at brett@storyofstuff.org.

Thank you for your support and solidarity. Water is life!

Sincerely,

Michael O'Heaney
Executive Director, The Story of Stuff Project
For the endorsers of the Nestlé's Troubled Waters Campaign

Background

Nestle' takes millions of gallons of forest groundwater in southern California from the 5,000 ft elevation headwaters of Strawberry Creek. The water is extracted from a series of horizontal wells bored hundreds of feet into the mountainside draining San Bernardino National Forest groundwater, piping it miles away to a centralized trucking site. Nestle' refuses to comply with limits proposed by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Nestlé mines water from ten towns in Maine, exporting more than 1 billion gallons of water per year. In some locations in Maine, they pay nothing for the water they take. [Community Water Justice Maine](#)

Nestlé draws from 7 spring sites in the state of Florida for processing and bottles water at 3 large scale industrial plants diverting a million-gallons-per-day from the Santa Fe River which is flowing 30% below historical levels due to over pumping. [Our Santa Fe River Inc.](#)

In Colorado Nestle' is authorized to take 65 million gallons from Colorado's Arkansas River and operates a pipeline to brings water from the Colorado River system to address the water deficit it creates in the Arkansas river. [Unbottle and Protect Chaffee County Water](#)

Nestle' bottles water at its Aberfoyle plant in Ontario, Canada taking water claimed by Indigenous people in contravention of a cease-and-desist order issued by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council (traditional leadership of Six Nations of the Grand) in 2019. [Wellington Water Watchers](#)

Of equal consequence, Nestle' pays next to nothing for the water it extracts and sells for profit in many communities in the US. In some communities its right to take the water is in dispute. [Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation](#)

We call upon the US House of Representatives Oversight Committee to investigate Nestle's proposed sale to private equity funds. Canadian grass roots group are asking its federal Competition Bureau to block the deal, and for Ministers of the Environment in Ontario and British Columbia to cancel Nestlé's permits to take water.