

From: Markowitz, Deb [Deb.Markowitz@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:30 AM
To: Berry, Patrick; Chadwick, Steve; Colbert, Ginny; Groveman, Jon; Hammerl, Bob; Johnson, Justin; Mears, David; Recchia, Chris; Royar, Kim; Snyder, Michael
CC: MacLean, Alex
Subject: FW: response to bottled water email

Hi Team – some examples of response. We also got a couple arguing for retaining their water (Laundry building runs brown from time to time) I will send those to the appropriate commissioner. Deb

Bravo, Deb. My name is Eric Law and I am the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) Project Development Specialist. I would like to tell you a quick story when I first arrived here at the Water Supply Division. This would have been in 2004 and bottled water seemed to be everywhere, everywhere that is except the Water Supply Division (WSD).

The WSD hydrogeologists and engineers, the water professionals in our state, know the science all too well and if that isn't enough they survey and regulate the in-state bottled water companies. Unlike the general population savvy marketing couldn't sway these folks. I remember my first visit to a bottled water facility and being impressed by their professionalism, hard work, and pride in their product. I was impressed but certainly not more impressed than the professional, hard-working, and proud municipal and private water operators. The most noteworthy idea I had and still have is that we generally have well-protected and quality drinking water in the State of Vermont. Bottled water has its place, no doubt, but taking everything else into account—waste, transportation, and money—you can't beat tap water.

My coworker, Ashley Lucht, and I work hard to educate Vermonters on the “wise” use of tap water throughout the State, esp. at municipal and private systems which have recently made huge strides improving their respective systems using federal and state monies. A huge investment in both water infrastructure and bottled water is simply not sustainable. Deb, with one stroke of the pen, you and the Governor will make a very important (and for Ashley and I a reinforcing) statement today. I applaud your efforts.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Law
DWSRF Project Development Specialist/Environmental Analyst III
Water Supply Division
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
(802) 241-4656

From: Brabant, John
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:12 AM

To: Markowitz, Deb
Subject: RE:

Wow, some of us have been waiting for this for 15 years. Thanks Deb!

John Brabant, Salvage Yard Specialist

Dear Deb,

I cannot thank you enough for this sane, simple, environmentally friendly, long overdue decision.

This is one of those things that has bothered me immensely over the years that I have seen these bottles come into the complex (I don't know how long it has been that various departments and agencies have purchased the bottled water – it wasn't the case when I started I know). I have posted articles near our water cooler (actually paid for by a water club not the State here on our floor) about the waste of the plastic bottles, health issues with water in plastic, the waste of energy in transporting bottled water etc etc but no avail. It particularly bothered me that in some divisions and departments the taxpayers actually paid for this unnecessary waste and expense.

So thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,
Cathy Kashanski
Water Quality Division

Hello Deb,
I hope it's not unreasonable to write as I'm sure you receive lots of email every day. I wanted to let you know that I think this is a good move. Many of us in the Rutland North office use the bottled water from the cooler because the water from the tap has a strong chlorine flavor. If a filter is installed that can help eliminate the chlorine taste, that's great. Thanks—Eric

Eric Hansen
Rutland County Forester

Thankyou Deb, for this fabulous step forward! We have not met; I work in 10 South as a botanist with Everett Marshall, Jodi Shippee and Eric Sorenson. Best wishes in continuing to adjust to your new post.

Aaron Marcus
Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
103 South Main Street, 10 South
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-241-1268

Deb –

I hesitated to send this email because I know you are probably way too busy to have time to read individual emails like this, but I can't resist the opportunity to tell you how very much I appreciate and support this initiative.

Thank you SO much for this wonderfully well argued statement and for doing the right thing by restricting the use of unnecessary bottled water in state government.

- Leslie

Leslie J. Matthews, Ph.D.
Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Conservation

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources