

From: John Stewart [jstewart@stopcorporateabuse.org]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 5:31 PM
To: MacLean, Alex
CC: Markowitz, Deb; Kristin Urquiza
Subject: Letter to Governor Shumlin re: budget spending on bottled water
Attachments: Letter to Governor Shumlin 3.11.11.doc

Dear Alex,

This is John Stewart with Corporate Accountability International. I'm sorry we weren't able to touch base over the phone this week. I understand this is a very busy time with the legislative session in full swing.

Attached please find our final letter to Governor Shumlin on behalf of Corporate Accountability International and our allies and supporters in Vermont, requesting that the Governor issue a policy to cut budget spending on bottled water.

We're encouraged by Governor Shumlin's past support of our efforts to work with former Governor Douglas to issue a similar policy. Though the initiative didn't succeed, then Senate President Shumlin signed the letter to Governor Douglas (also attached).

My colleague, Kristin Urquiza, our Think Outside the Bottle campaign director, will follow-up with you about the letter and a press opportunity to highlight any action the Governor decides to take, which will take place on World Water Day, March 22nd.

Look forward to a call from Kristin soon. In the meantime, if there is a good time for her to call on Monday, you can respond to her directly at kurquiza@stopcorporateabuse.org

Best regards, and have a great weekend,
John

--

John Stewart

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The Honorable Governor of Vermont
Executive Office of Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

March 22, 2011

Dear Governor Shumlin,

We are writing to follow up from our previous correspondence with your predecessor dated March 22, 2010. Like most states across the United States, Vermont has high quality public water systems. We are writing to ask for your leadership in protecting them. For over six years Corporate Accountability International has been leading the Think Outside the Bottle Campaign to raise awareness about the environmental and social impacts of bottled water and to galvanize support for strong public water systems. Over the past ten years (1997-2007) the U.S. bottled water market has more than doubled. More than 75% of people in this country drink bottled water, and one in five drinks only bottled water. State governments contribute to this trend when purchasing bottled water for offices, meetings, and other state-sponsored events.

As we work to stimulate our economy, spending taxpayer money on bottled water is a misallocation of limited resources. Last year, we released our Getting States Off the Bottle Report which found that, in Vermont, annual spending on bottled water in 2008 was \$228,874. State spending on bottled water undermines confidence in Vermont's public water supply and pollutes the environment. Plastic water bottles in the U.S. require the equivalent of 32 to 54 million barrels of oil a year to manufacture, and 70 percent end up incinerated, buried in our landfills or are discarded on our roadways or in our waterways as litter.

We hope you have followed the recent national attention on the negative impacts of bottled water and the growing concern about the privatization and commodification of our water. Increasing numbers of cities, restaurants, institutions, and individuals are turning back to the tap and away from expensive, branded bottled water. The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution at their 2008 annual meeting encouraging cities across the country to phase out government use of bottled water and promote the importance of strong public water systems. Already, more than 100 cities have responded to this resolution and have taken common sense actions to protect the environment, save money, and restore confidence in our public water supplies. Now states are heeding the call. Illinois, Colorado and New York issued policies cutting state spending on bottled water. We are eager to see similar actions taken here in Vermont.

Recent studies show that government spending on public water systems pays huge dividends for our economy. Public water systems are the backbone of our country's infrastructure, public health and economic prosperity—it's time we start nurturing them. Yet, last year, the American public spent more than \$10 billion buying bottled water. This at a time when our public water systems are in need of increased public support, facing at least an annual \$23 billion investment shortfall between what these systems require and what is allocated.

Governor Shumlin, we want to extend the opportunity for you to become a local and national leader on this issue by ending state contracts with bottled water suppliers, promoting public water systems across the state, and advocating for a renewed national commitment to water infrastructure funding. We have enclosed a copy of





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our previous letter to your predecessor on this matter as well as copies of hundreds of petitions from people across the state calling on you to cut taxpayer spending on bottled water and support strong public water systems.

As our state's leading public official, we ask you to show your commitment to our public water systems by issuing a policy to cut budget spending on bottled water. For more information please contact Kristin Urquiza, Think Outside the Bottle Campaign Director based in Boston at 617-695-2525 or kurquiza@stopcorporateabuse.org. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kristin Urquiza, Corporate Accountability International, Think Outside the Bottle Campaign Director
Rep. Jim McCullough, Chittenden
Rep. Kristi Spengler, Colchester
Rep. David Deen, Putney
Rep. Gale Courcelle, Rutland
Vermont State Employees Association
Paul Burns, VPIRG
Johanna Miller, Vermont Natural Resources Council
Andrea Stander, Vermont League of Conservation Voters
Prof. Burt Wilke, Past President of the Vermont Public Health Association
Johanna Miller, Outreach Director and Energy Program Co-Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council
Paul Erlbaum, Community Groundwater Study Group
Kari Bradley, General Manager, Hunger Mountain Cooperative
Caitrin Noel, Friends of the Mad River, Waitsfield
Matt Levin, Vermonters for a Clean Environment VCE, Montpelier
Norm Staunton, Association of Vermont Recyclers AVR, Montpelier
Rick Winston & Andrea Serota, Owners, Savoy Theater (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Bob Watson, Owner, Capitol Grounds (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Meg Hammond, The Langdon Street Café (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Sean Ward, Owner, Coffee Corner (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Robert Kasow, Rivendell Books (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Jessica Turner, Capitol Kitchen (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Jeannemarie Schinhofen, Katie's Jewels (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Adrienne Allison, Tulsi Tea Room and Green Mountain Medicinals (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Kelly Sullivan, Owner, Splash Naturals and Athena's Boutique (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Amber Megrath, Petals and Things (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Wes Hamilton, Owner, Three Penny Taproom (Bottled Water Free Establishment)
Glenn Sturgis, Owner, Captiol Copy
David Frattalone, Owner, State Street Engraving
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