

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Dr. Henney,

25 April 1999

I am writing to you because I am concerned about the standards for bottled water in this country. I urge you to adopt strict requirements for bottled water safety, labeling, and public disclosure. Specifically, you should: (1) set strict limits for contaminants of concern in bottled water, including arsenic, heterotrophic-plate-count bacteria, E. coli, and other parasites and pathogens, and synthetic organic chemicals such as "phthalates"; (2) apply the rules to all bottled water whether carbonated or not and whether sold intrastate or interstate; and (3) require bottlers to display information on their labels about the levels of contaminants of concern found in the water, the water's exact source, and whether it meets health criteria set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control for killing parasites like cryptosporidium.

I am a Christian and this issue is important to me. Thank you for your attention to this matter. May God grant you wisdom and health.

Respectfully yours,

Shannon L. Holbrook

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