

228 Northland Estates
Jamestown, ND 58401
April, 23 1999

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Jane E. Henney, MD
Commissioner, U.S. FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney,

Manufactures of bottled water many times present their product as a safe, clean alternative to tap or well water. Through research of the literature I have found this not always to be the case. One study found that of 103 bottled water brands tested, 25% contained chemical contaminants at levels above the bottled water industry code. At least another 25% merely met the standards placed upon tap water found in many peoples homes across the United States. Regulations are placed on tap water in an attempt to control potential diseases caused by organisms and toxic chemicals, but many manufactures of bottled water have less rigorous testing and purity standards.

I am writing this letter encourage you to adopt strict requirements for bottled water safety, labeling, and public disclosure as listed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (<http://www.nrdc.org>). These include:

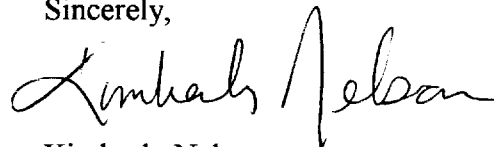
Setting strict limits for contaminants of concern in bottled water, including arsenic, heterotrophic-plate-count bacteria and other parasites and pathogens, and synthetic organic chemicals such as "phthalates".

Applying the rules to all bottled water whether carbonated or not and whether sold intrastate or interstate.

Requiring 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.

Furthermore, Legislation providing the resources for the FDA and state regulators to actually enforce the law should also be passed. Thank you for your attention to this concern, I believe legislation is required to protect the safety of the public.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Nelson

cc: Senator Kent Conrad
North Dakota Representative

99P-0785

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