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

Doctor Henney,

I am writing in regards to the recent information that has come to light about the safety of bottled water. Being a full-time college student, I am often reliant on bottled water to help me through the day. I had always assumed that it was both healthier and safer than tap water and never used my tap water faucet for drinking or cooking. Instead, I opted for a regular delivery of bottled water to sustain the household. To further my assumption were artistic labels claiming the source was "spring water" with pristine views of mountain lakes and streams. I am quite disturbed to find that Alhambra Mountain Spring Water (the type I have delivered to my home) has been found to have heterotrophic-plate-count bacteria in some bottles over five hundred colony forming units per milliliter. The World Health Organization recommends a count of zero colonies per one hundred milliliters. These are known as pathogens and enter the water from domestic sewage and untreated human and animal wastes. Another bottled version I often carry with me is Crystal Geyser Alpine Spring Water. In this brand it has been found by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to contain arsenic in excess of California warning level, World Health Organization, and European Union standards. I've also found that much of the carbonated water I enjoyed drinking is given an exception by the FDA and isn't held to any regulatory health standards. The same goes

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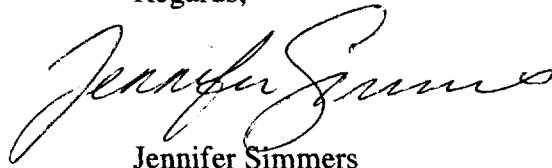
for water bottled and distributed within the same state, accounting for sixty to seventy percent of all bottled water sold in the U.S.

You are obviously a person concerned with health issues and I'm sure you were just as taken aback as I was by this recent unveiling of information. As a result, I would urge you to consider the following recommendations:

- 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.
- Apply the rules to all bottled water, whether carbonated or not and whether sold intrastate or interstate.
- Require bottles to display information on their labels about the levels of contaminants of concern, the water's exact source and whether it meets health criteria set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control.

I am quite interested in your thoughts on the subject and would appreciate a response. Even if we only have a slight agreement, I'm confident that this issue will come to a resolution in the best interest of all concerned. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Simmers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jennifer Simmers

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