

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 15, 2018

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING EXTRACTION OF MICHIGAN'S WATERS BY NESTLÉ
AND BANNING THE PURCHASE OF NESTLÉ BRAND BOTTLED WATER BY
EATON COUNTY**

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

Commissioner Brehler moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners is committed to serving as an effective and careful steward of our natural resources and environment, including the waters of our state, and believes that doing so is a fundamental responsibility of government at all levels; and

WHEREAS, threats to Michigan's drinking water supply are an ongoing and serious public health concern, and include increasing problems with water scarcity and contamination due in part to overdraws from Michigan's aquifers and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners is committed to sustaining its substantial, ongoing efforts to reduce consumption of bottled water, which include installation and maintenance of water bottle filling stations in County buildings and provision of employee water dispensers; and

WHEREAS, Nestlé has acted in an aggressive way to dominate the bottled water industry in Michigan and elsewhere, acting recklessly with regard to the environment and without fair or adequate compensation to the people of Michigan or to local communities for the extraction of resources that are a public and common good; and

WHEREAS, Nestlé extracts more than twice as much water from Michigan than from any other Midwestern state; and

WHEREAS, Nestlé sells more than \$340 million annually of bottled water extracted from Michigan, while paying only nominal fees for doing so; and

WHEREAS, Nestlé has persisted in pursuing increased pumping of Michigan groundwater against the strong and demonstrated desire of local communities, most recently in Osceola Township, where opposition to Nestlé's increased pumping operations was expressed in over 80,000 comments and over 330,000 petition signatures submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners opposes large-scale extraction of Michigan waters by Nestlé or any other corporate entity without rigorous environmental testing and monitoring designed to ensure long-term sustainable

operations that do not affect the water supply of the people of Michigan, without agreement by all potentially affected local communities and without fair compensation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners is committed to ensuring that Eaton County does not purchase bottled water from Nestlé; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Eaton County will no longer purchase Nestlé bottled water under any brand name, including but not limited to the following brand names commonly sold in Michigan: “Ice Mountain,” “Pure Life,” and “Poland Spring”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Eaton County will update its procurement procedures, effective no later than September 1st, 2018, to reflect and implement the Board of Commissioners’ intent to end the purchase of Nestlé bottled water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners directs the County Controller/Administrator to send copies of this Resolution to the Michigan Association of Counties, the other 82 Michigan counties; and our representatives in the Michigan State House and Michigan State Senate. Motion failed. Ayes: Augustine, Spence, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Brehler, Austin. Nays: Barnes, Droscha, Eakin, Ridge, Lautzenheiser, Wood, Rogers, Mulder.