

Draft: LETTER TO THE EDITOR FOR WORLD WATER DAY (425 words)

Be sure you know how many words you may use for your letter.

To the Editor:

World Water Day is March 22. Lets pause to think what this means. About 70% of our earth is water. Why then are we hearing about looming water wars? Why do we read that the survival of 1.2 billion people is currently in jeopardy due to lack of adequate water and sanitation?

Part of the answer is that less than 1% of the earths water is available freshwater. Industry, mining and agribusiness have been allowed to pollute this vital resource and to wastefully use water needed by local communities. Now giant corporations want to control access of this precious resource, essential to life itself.

These are not far away problems. Take a look at our grocery shelves lined with bottled water. Most of us remember just a few years back when there was hardly any bottled water. What is going on?

Corporations like Pepsi and Coca Cola are reaping huge profits by convincing consumers they should drink Aquafina and Dasani bottled water which is just municipal water with some extra treatment. Nestl's bottling spring water unregulated by the US-EPA.

These corporations selling bottled water are getting us to think about water as just any other product we have to buy at the grocery store. And they are creating an alternative private distribution system which they can control, a pay to live system.

Immense quantities of plastic bottles are produced then thrown away just so people can take a few sips of water. This creates a cradle to grave toxic waste stream starting with the petrochemical industry producing almost 2 million tons of plastic for bottled water. Both the small single-serve PET bottles made with phthalates and the large plastic jugs that are shown to leach Bisphenol A, add endocrine disrupter chemicals to the environment that compromise public health. After just one use, 10 billion plastic water bottles end up as garbage or litter every year.

Think about the unnecessary use of gasoline to transport this water from the spring to the bottling plant then to the store and finally to our homes. Municipal water comes right out of our tap through energy efficient pipes. And it costs just a fraction of bottled water.

So, I hope you will join me in celebrating World Water Day by thinking twice about whether you really want to fill your shopping cart with bottled water. Or whether you want to just turn on your tap and enjoy our local water.

Water is life.