

WE'RE GOING BACK FOR THE WATER!!

CITIZENS CONVERGE!

**AT THE ICE MOUNTAIN/
PERRIER BOTTLING PLANT**



FOR A

RALLY

AND

LEGAL PICKET



In the past month, major reports on water privatization and the global water crisis have sprung up in The Nation, The New York Times, and US News & World Report.

The world is listening. Let's make sure they hear us.

- Meet at high noon at the car pool parking lot off Stanwood Exit 131 (off US-131) south of Big Rapids.
- Bring family, friends, signs, music, and your own water bottle. And wear blue if you love water!

INFO/ DIRECTIONS:

Phone: (231) 228-5489

Email: wobbly@waterissweet.org

Web: www.waterissweet.org

**STOP ICE
MOUNTAIN
SAVE MICHIGAN'S
WATER**

saturday
SEPTEMBER 14
STANWOOD, MI
HIGH NOON

SATURDAY
SEPT. 14
 STANWOOD, MICHIGAN
12 NOON
 TELL ICE MOUNTAIN TO
GO AWAY!



**OUR VOICE MUST BE
 LOUD AND COSTANT!!
 THEY WILL ONLY GO
 AWAY IF WE GO BACK!**

Water is a Right, Not a Commodity!
 STOP ICE MOUNTAIN
 from selling Michigan water for Profit!

September 14, 2002, 12 Noon
 Stanwood, Michigan

Meet at high noon at the car-pool
 parking lot off Stanwood Exit 131 (off
 US-131) south of Big Rapids.

- March to the plant for a rally and
 legal picket. Speakers, food, and
 music to follow.

- Bring friends, family, music, and
 your own water bottle. Wear blue!

**About this LOCAL and GLOBAL
 struggle.**

Swiss-based Nestle Waters North America (previously Perrier) has begun operating its nearly 250,000 sq. ft. water bottling facility in central Michigan. It hopes to pump up to 720,000 gallons per day from the heart of the Great Lakes Basin at a profit of as much as \$1.8 million per day. Up to 65% of the water sold by Perrier (under the brand name Ice Mountain) will be consumed outside the Great Lakes Basin. None of this money will return to the community. In fact, the state and local township have given the corporation \$9.5 million in tax abatements to set up shop. All of this has been done despite broad-based citizen opposition. Selling Michigan's water for public gain is a violation of the public trust.

The implications of the sale of water for profit are immense. Under international trade laws and agreements (WTO, NAFTA) water is not considered a right, but rather is defined as a commodity.

This is a precedent-setting battle. The "export and diversion" of water which could occur as a result of the Ice Mountain project would open up flood-gates for the sale of Great Lakes water by other corporations whose objective is profit, not the well being of the public and the planet. What we want is democratic control over our basic life-sustaining resources.

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (www.savemiwater.org) are suing Nestle at the state level. Sweetwater Alliance, a statewide mobilization against water privatization, has begun a campaign to activate communities in this struggle. Thus, citizens from throughout the Great Lakes will meet in Stanwood on Sept. 14 to show that we do not want this plan. We must act now before it is too late.

**Michigan is on the frontier of the
 battle for water democracy!**

Why is this so serious?

* "The wars of the next century will be about water."

-Ismail Serageldin, V.P. World Bank

* "At the heart of the matter is the fundamental question, is water a right or a commodity? If it is a right, then an international system must ensure access to enough clean water to sustain communities and the environment. If water is a commodity, then it can be bought and sold like any other, hoarded or squandered by those with enough cash and denied to those too poor to pay."

-Chris Ney, *Nor Any Drop to Drink: the Fight for Water in Bolivia*, published in *Non-Violent Activist, The Magazine of the Water Resisters League.*

*Global consumption of water is doubling every twenty years, twice the rate of the human population.

*If the trend persists, by 2025 the demand for fresh water is expected to rise by 56 percent.

*Twenty percent of the world's fresh water is in the Great Lakes.

For more info about water and international trade agreements visit United for a Fair Economy's site: www.ufenet.org

Support Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation in their legal battle: www.savemiwater.org.

Find out how you can get immediately involved in your area: www.waterissweet.org.

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