



◆ COMMUNITY WATER JUSTICE ◆

Welcome to our network.

We are a network of front-line struggles in Maine determined to secure rights and accessibility to our groundwater through education/action for future generations.

Some facts you should know about Nestlé and Maine's groundwater.

- ◆ Maine's abundant water resources are under threat from long-term corporate large-scale water extraction and export.
- ◆ Poland Spring is not a Maine corporation. It is owned by Nestlé of Switzerland, the largest food and beverage corporation in the world with a market capitalization of over \$247 billion dollars.
- ◆ Poland Spring is the #1 selling brand bottled spring water in the US and sales are growing.
- ◆ Under current Maine state law, Nestlé / Poland Spring can pump as much of our water commons as they are able to secure for export.
- ◆ The Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) approved a US precedent-setting contract for a total of 45 years to allow Nestlé to take Fryeburg's groundwater, despite the citizens' rejection.
- ◆ All MPUC commissioners that oversaw the 45 year approval had conflicts of interest and had professional relationships with Nestlé at varying times in their careers.
- ◆ Nestlé is often involved in closed door dealings out of public forum in order to lay groundwork toward gaining access to our groundwater resources to their benefit.
- ◆ Nestlé sued the town of Fryeburg for saying 'NO' to them more than once. The procurement of Nestlé's water sources for profit appears secondary to citizen's needs.
- ◆ Nestlé receives millions of dollars in tax breaks while paying nothing for water in many locations.
- ◆ Nestlé gave more than any other corporation in campaign contributions to ME politicians in past years.
- ◆ Water contracts could be subject to international free-trade laws that supersede local, state and federal law. Maine entities could be ordered to supply Nestlé the minimum amount of untreated water noted in the contract, even if it means limiting future supply to the town and its businesses and schools if the aquifer isn't providing at sustainable levels.

Environmental concerns are mounting with Nestle achieving a 99% monopoly on water mining and bottling in Maine. Hundreds of thousands of water tanker trucks per year impact our roadways, townspeople and visitors and road repairs come from our taxes (one full tanker has the impact equivalent of 9,600 cars). Nestlé produces over 20 billion plastic bottles annually, of which about 77% end up in our landfills, oceans and waterways.

Demand transparency and accountability from our public officials when dealing with Nestlé.

Contact us: waterjustice1@gmail.com or on Facebook at [Community Water Justice](#)

WHAT CAN A WATER PROTECTOR DO?



- **Don't Drink Bottled Water** - Develop good habits by having a refillable container and know where your local potable water is available from the tap. If your drinking water is compromised, consider investing in a home filtration system which will save you money over time and reduce the waste stream.
- **Educate Yourself** - Connect with us on Facebook, read articles, watch documentaries, ask questions or send a request for information and how you can help.
- **Network** - Connect with people in groups in your town, and other in this study, re-establishing connections with friends, family, trusts, conservation groups and businesses. Be considerate of people with different experiences, backgrounds and abilities. Our success lies in building community!
- **Research** - Check to see if your town's water ordinance protects you from bulk water exports. If not, consider updating to protect your future water security. Also research tax maps to study and collect parcel information on Nestle (or subsidiary) acquired property. The search should also include any other bulk water exporters that may be present.
- **Participate!** - Join your Comprehensive Planning, Planning Board and/or Economic Development Committees. These are often public meetings of un-elected volunteers whose opinions and facts "of those who attend" help shape regulation and long term goals of the community.
- **Attend Meetings** - Attend Select Board, Planning Board, annual Town Meetings and public hearings and develop your confidence to express concerns for the public record. This is where the need for ordinances, the creation of committees, the expression of officer intent is conveyed publicly and (hopefully!) documented.
- **Volunteer** - Express your intent in assuming a vacant seat as a municipal volunteer. On average, there are 4-5 VACANT seats in varied positions in every town ranging from Planning Board, Zoning Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board Alternates and more. There is no specific prerequisite training or certification for any of these positions except the ability to read, write, think critically and offer your time.
- **Run For Local Office** - Even if going through the regular election process is not possible, consider campaigning as a write-in candidate. (Go to your town office to inquire about the candidate process.) Being an elected official affords the ability for easier access and ability to study past performance and craft regulations that will meet an intended need (now or in the future). Typically, Planning Board regulation suggestions can be passed to the Select Board before a townspeople vote, NOT requiring petitions from registered voters. BOTH (towns-person recommendation with petitions) and Planning Board have to be approved by the Select Board before becoming an article for establishing a special town meeting or townspeople vote.
- **Develop Ordinance or Charter Language** - Utilize recommended guidelines (contact waterjustice1@gmail.com or through Facebook) and study the town of Shapleigh, ME (monitoring and permitting) and Parsonsfield, ME (cap and % of precipitation/ acre) models for guidance, depending on the composition, demographics and economics of your town.