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May 30, 2000

Joseph Levitt, Director
Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20204

Dear Mr. Levitt:

The June edition of the Nutrition Action Health Letter from the Center for Science in the Public Interest has a five-page article on drinking water, and points out that bottled water is not required to tell the purchaser what contaminants are contained therein. I support the FDA's proposal to require reports on bottled water contaminants, because people that live along major rivers and lakes have become so dependent on bottled water, considering all the contaminants that are regularly (and even legally) dumped into these waters.

Even though I believe that municipal water suppliers, such as New Orleans, make tremendous efforts to assure that tap water is safe, my wife and I have had activated carbon filters at both our home and office since the early 1970's to protect us from the water we drink.

Many people depend on bottled water, instead of filtering their own tap water, and it is quite expensive. They deserve to have assurances that bottled water is tested and reported upon.

Please exert your best efforts to apply testing and reporting requirements to bottled water. I enclose a filled out form from the Health Letter, also.

Sincerely,

Leon Rudloff

LR:wt

Enclosure

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To: Joseph Levitt, Director
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204
oco2@cfsan.fda.gov

From: L. RUDLOFF
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Consumers have the right to know what's in their bottled water. As a member of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, I support the FDA's proposal that bottled-water manufacturers be required to make available detailed reports of contaminants, just as public water utilities do. All bottled-water labels should also disclose where the water comes from.

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