



KNOW THE FACTS



The Healthy Hydration Company™

CLAIM

Nestlé Waters is draining Michigan's water.

FACTS

Michigan has an abundance of water—it's number 1 in the U.S.

According to a [2015 United States Geological Service \(USGS\) study](#), Michigan ranks as the number one state with the highest percentage of water area, with 41.5% of its total area occupied by water.

Water is a renewable resource.

The water we use is naturally replenished through the water cycle. For example, our data shows that over the past 15 years, there has been an increase in precipitation leading to a corresponding increase in aquifer levels. According to the USGS and academic research, Michigan is a "wet region"—it is predicted to get wetter in the years ahead.

Nestlé Waters is a relatively small commercial water user in the state.

According to data compiled by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan's nearly 40 bottled water companies account for less than .01% of water used in the state. Our water use in Michigan ranks us 85 on the list of the state's top water users.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Water_Use_Statistics_557539_7.pdf

The water we bottle doesn't travel far.

Approximately 90% of the water we source in Michigan is shipped to customers within 250 miles of our Stanwood bottling plant.

CLAIM

Nestlé Waters pays next to nothing to take water from Michigan.

FACTS

All industrial and commercial water users pay the same price if they own the infrastructure.

Nestlé Waters pays the rate set by the local and state authorities at all of our sites. We do not receive a special rate for water use. While it makes for catchy headlines, we are not buying millions of gallons of water for \$200. That \$200 is an annual fee that goes to the state, similar to a car registration fee. It's just one of the many expenses we pay to operate in Michigan.

No one in Michigan actually pays for water.

What we all pay for is the cost associated with infrastructure, quality and delivery of water.

We make significant investments in local infrastructure—we're talking hundreds of millions of dollars.

Since we began operating in Michigan, we have made capital investments totaling more than \$267 million. The company's [economic activity](#) generates nearly \$5 million each year that support state and local taxes, which fund local schools, fire and police departments, local parks and other essential public services.

We create good quality jobs for Michigan residents and support local businesses.

Our company directly employs approximately 280 people in Michigan and buys \$51 million in goods and services from Michigan companies. Nestlé Waters' Michigan presence [results in a total of 765 jobs created statewide](#) and more than \$160 million in economic activity, putting more money in the pockets of Michigan residents and small businesses.

CLAIM

Nestlé did not do enough to help the people of Flint in their time of need.

FACTS

We've been providing water and other support to Flint since the beginning of the crisis.

Starting in October 2015, our Ice Mountain team began shipping water donations to help the residents of Flint. In January 2016, [we partnered with a coalition](#) that included Walmart, Coca-Cola, and Pepsi to support the community of Flint with safe, clean drinking water to meet the needs of more than 10,000 public school students in Flint, or the equivalent of up to 6.5 million bottles.

We've never stopped helping our neighbors in Flint.

At the beginning of 2018, as a continuation of the efforts to help meet the evolving needs of the community, Nestlé Waters, along with the coalition of business partners, provided additional product and financial support to impacted schools to help them through the remainder of the school year. These resources will be used by the schools, as needed, to purchase bottled water, and other products and services – including water testing and water filters – to help ensure their students continue to have access to safe, clean drinking water.

We're helping those donated water bottles get recycled.

In collaboration with Keep America Beautiful and Keep Genesee County Beautiful, Nestlé Waters and our corporate partners [established recycling infrastructure and awareness programs](#) to support the Flint school community.

We're always prepared to continue providing assistance where and when it's needed.

As with all of our relief efforts, we rely on the expertise of our partners on the ground to assess the needs of the local community. This ensures that water is delivered when and where it is needed most. We stand ready to answer any requests from our partners should they ask for it. Our relief partners typically include organizations, such as Americares, the American Red Cross, Gleaning For The World, Convoy of Hope, and Feeding America. We also worked with other local organizations as part of our work with the coalition in the Flint.

Our operations in Michigan have absolutely NO connection to the crisis in Flint.

Nestlé Waters has never withdrawn water from any location in or near Flint. We source water from a completely different watershed, more than 120 miles away.

CLAIM

Nestlé Waters is a Swiss company, and not part of the Michigan community.

FACTS

We are an international company with a significant U.S. presence, and have been operating in Michigan for more than 15 years.

While Nestlé Waters North America is owned by Nestlé, which is based in Switzerland, we are an international company with a significant presence in the United States. Our headquarters is based in Stamford, Connecticut, and we have more than 8,500 employees across the country, operating in 140 communities. That includes approximately 280 employees in Michigan.

Our employees don't just work with the local community, they ARE the local community.

It is easy to forget, but Nestlé Waters North America, like any company, is made up of people. Here in Michigan, we employ approximately 280 people in the state who care about the environment and the well-being of their local communities, just like you do. They are good people who live, work and raise their families in the same communities where we operate, and for that reason, they are just as passionate as you are about protecting their neighbors and the natural resources of the area.

We just celebrated 15 years of sustainable operations, and we're proud of it.

2017 marked our 15th year operating in Michigan, and whether through a strong commitment to water stewardship, volunteering, or community investment, we aim to make a positive impact every day.

We are committed to local causes and organizations, and support them regularly.

We support many community organizations here in the state through donations of water, food, supplies and money. Ice Mountain employees volunteer in the communities where they live and work to support meaningful community projects including environmental cleanups along rivers and highways. Nestlé Waters has donated more than \$500,000 to fund multiple projects to improve the health of the Muskegon River watershed and invested \$1.5 million to evaluate and help provide a new city well in Osceola County that is used solely by the community.

CLAIM

Nestlé Waters' proposed increase in withdrawal is not sustainable.

FACTS

Our withdrawals do not have an adverse impact—scientific data confirms this.

For over 15 years, Nestlé Waters has worked with independent, professional scientists to conduct regular and ongoing monitoring of groundwater, surface water and the local ecosystem to ensure the long-term sustainability of the shared water resources.

We conduct comprehensive environmental monitoring at our spring sources in Michigan.

We regularly collect data from more than 100 monitoring points in Michigan. We use this data to ensure that our withdrawals are sustainable and preserve a healthy ecosystem where we operate.

Depleting the water resources in Michigan would put us out of business.

Simply put: it would make absolutely NO sense to invest millions of dollars into our local operations just to deplete the natural resources on which our business relies. It would undermine the success of our business and go against every value we hold as people and as a company.

CLAIM

Nestlé Waters is suing Osceola Township for not letting them pump their water.

FACTS

We are absolutely NOT suing Osceola Township.

We simply appealed a 1-1 decision by the Osceola Township Board that denied our request for a permit to build a 12-foot by 22-foot building in Osceola Township. An independent Circuit Court ruled that our request met all of the Township's zoning ordinance, and ordered the Township to issue the zoning permit.

The Township chose to file an appeal of the Circuit Court ruling. Both the Township and Nestlé's Appellate court.

This is a zoning issue, and has no bearing on our water withdrawals.

Water withdrawal in the State of Michigan is governed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). This building permit is filed with the Township to allow us to build a 12-foot by 22-foot building, designed to house a booster pump. The pump would increase pressure along our pipeline to transport additional water.

Several years ago, the Osceola Township issued a zoning permit to Nestlé Waters to construct a similar building in the township under the very same ordinances.

Nestlé Waters twice offered to delay or postpone our appeal in an effort to help reduce the local government's legal expenses.

We are sensitive to the local government's incurrence of legal fees. That is why we did what we could to help them reduce these costs by offering to delay our appeal until the MDEQ issued their withdrawal permit. Unfortunately, our offers were refused by the Township.

The booster pump building will have minimal impact on Osceola Township.

While we have evaluated several options, this booster station is the most efficient, has the smallest footprint, and would have ready to benefit of providing additional tax revenue to the Township.

From the beginning, our goal with this request has been to reduce, as much as possible, any impact to the local community and the environment.

CLAIM

Nestlé Waters' goal is to turn water from a public resource into a private one.

FACTS

We do not compete with municipalities for water. EVER. And we do not privatize public water supplies.

For example, in Michigan communities, like Evart, where we purchase water, we have a clause in our agreement that specifies that, before we can purchase water, the community must have enough water to meet their needs. In addition, we recently invested \$1.5 million to evaluate and help provide a new city well in Osceola County that is used solely by the community.

Bottled water cannot, and will not, replace tap water—and we never expect it to.

Bottled water does, however, play an important role in helping Americans stay hydrated at a time when 70% of beverages are consumed away from home. Americans have a growing preference for water—mineral, still, sparkling, and flavored. Earlier this year, the sales of single-serve bottled water surpassed sales of carbonated soft drinks for the first time ever. That's great news for the health of our country as billions of calories are being taken out of the American diet. As the #1 bottled water brand in the Midwest, it's great news for the communities where we invest.

Bottled water is also essential in times of natural disaster or other emergencies. We frequently supply drinking water to local municipalities and first responders when tap water may be unavailable. In 2017 alone, we [donated more than 5 million bottles of water](#) to communities in need.

CLAIM

Nestlé does not believe that water is a human right. I saw the video of their CEO being circulated online.

FACTS

We absolutely, unequivocally believe that water is a human right.

Safe, clean drinking water is essential to human life, and we believe that access to it is a fundamental human right. Everyone should have consistent access to quality water to meet daily hydration, cooking and hygiene needs.

The longer our CEO claiming otherwise is over 12 years old and depicts someone who is no longer our CEO.

Critics use [a video interview](#) that our former Chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe gave in 2005 – over 12 years ago – to claim that he thinks all water sources should be privatized. This is simply false.

The video is edited by critics to be intentionally misleading in order to advance a false narrative about our company.

Mr. Brabeck's comments were taken out of context and engineered by critics to create an inaccurate soundbite that would scare and anger viewers.

Nestlé's current chairman has affirmed that the company believes water is a human right.

As recently as March 2018, [Nestlé current Chairman of the Board Paul Bulcke publically stated](#): "At Nestlé, we unequivocally believe that access to water is a basic human right. Everyone, everywhere in the world, has the right to clean, safe water for drinking and sanitation."