



April 11, 2016

The Honourable Glen Murray,
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change,
120 Carleton St., Unit #318, Toronto, M5A4K2

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Grand River Environmental Network to express concern about a proposed water taking in Elora, Ontario. Nestle Waters Canada is contemplating the possibility of taking up to 1.6 million litres of water from the Middlebrook well at Elora.

We understand that the provincial government is considering new legislation pertaining to water policy related to 100 per cent consumptive water taking permits and we would ask that any consideration of Nestle's application for a pump test not be considered until after the new policies are in place.

Our concerns about the Nestle's proposal are heightened because of the particular location close to the Grand River and Cascade Creek. The Cascade Creek is a cold water tributary and an important area for fish spawning.

As you know, the Grand is a much-valued resource for communities downstream from Elora. We are told that any reduction in water levels has an impact on the river and we feel that any change from immediate or long-term pumping would be unacceptable.

Finally, we would ask that you implement legislation that would see any companies such as Nestle's, that withdraw water from groundwater sources, pay a reasonable fee for access to such a valuable resource.

We are led to believe Nestle's pays a paltry sum of \$3.71 per million litres of water pumped from the ground, a fee that doesn't come close to the value of the resource.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue and the courtesy of a reply would be appreciated.

Your's truly,

Bob Burt
On behalf of the
Grand River Environmental Network
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Cambridge, Ontario,
N3H2V9