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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Clinton Twp. Board of Trustees urges MDEQ to reconsider its approval of Nestlé's water permit**

The Clinton Township Board of Trustees weighed-in on Nestlé Water's permit to increase the amount of water it pumps from an Osceola Township aquifer in northern Michigan. The board approved language opposing the increase in a resolution to be sent to the State of Michigan.

The resolution, introduced by township trustee Joe Aragona at the June 11 regular township board meeting was passed unanimously. It urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to reconsider its approval of Nestlé's water permit, which grants an increase in current pumping from 250 gallons per minute (gpm) to 400 gpm.

"I'm hoping we can join our voices in opposition to the increase," said Trustee Aragona. "This is something that needs to be looked at in Lansing so this resolution is being sent to our State Representatives Steve Marino and Bill Sowerby, and State Senators Steven Bieda and Tory Roca."

Nestlé Waters began pumping water in 2011 from the White Pine Springs well at a capacity of 150 gallons per minute (gmp), which was increased to 250 gpm in April 2015. In July, 2016, Nestlé Waters submitted a permit request to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to increase its capacity by 150 gpm, to 400 gpm.

According to the Michigan Economic Center, Michigan water is directly linked to billions of dollars in wages throughout multiple economies.

"We have a blue water economy that is at risk here," said Aragona. "The Office of the Great Lakes published a study that says billions of dollars flow through our economy simply because of water. I think we need to unite as Michiganders, to say with one voice that we need to keep a watchful eye on our water system and make sure it's protected," he said.

Before it can begin operating under its new, higher-volume permit, Nestlé must submit monitoring and quality assurance plans to the state. If all the conditions are met, the 60 percent increase in pumping could equal up to 576,000 gallons per day, which equates to more than 210 million gallons each year.

The Board of Trustees' resolution requests the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality reconsider its approval of the permit allowing Nestlé Waters to increase its pumping capacity. The resolution further requests that MDEQ and the Michigan Legislature take action to ensure that no other business be allowed to confiscate or misuse the state's natural resources.

Aragona believes the people of Michigan, and specifically those in Macomb County want their local representatives to work on a fix for the growing number of water-related issues.

“Whether it's the quality of drinking water in our cities or the pollution of Lake St. Clair, the aquifers being drained is just one more water-related issue we need to look at,” he said.

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