



## House Bills 5065-5073 and Senate Bills 721-729

### Bottled Water

#### Opposition Argument:

Opponents argue this legislation threatens jobs with slippery slope regulation of the bottled water industry. By removing water in containers of 5.7 gallons or less from the definition of consumptive use, it will be impossible for the industry to continue operating.

#### Response:

HB 5065 specifies that existing bottled water operations can continue operating under their current Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (MSDWA) permits; the only new requirement would be registration of their water use. New operations proposing to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day or more must obtain a permit under the MSDWA.

HB 5065 also removes from the definition of consumptive use 'water withdrawals in containers of 5.7 gallons or less'. Michigan's current law does not guarantee that water in these containers is being used consumptively. The new definition more accurately reflects that water in containers 5.7 gallons or less is not a diversion as long as it is a registered withdrawal permitted under the MSDWA.

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#### The Facts on Bottled Water:

There really is no ceiling to the demand for bottled water, especially as access to clean, fresh water declines around the world.

Worldwide consumption of bottled water has more than doubled in the past decade, and is increasing at a rate of over 9% every year. In 2007, more than 9 billion gallons of bottled water were consumed in the U.S.; China and India have increased their consumption of bottled water 19.7% and 24.6%, respectively from 2001 to 2006.<sup>1</sup> At this rate, it is not difficult to imagine a proposal to bottle and export at least a billion gallons per year from the Great Lakes basin to other parts of the U.S. or around the world. Without new state laws that protect against diversions of Great Lakes water, including exports in bottles, there would be nothing to prevent large exports like this.

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Privatization threatens the public's control of lakes, streams and other waters. Bottled water companies would like water to be treated like any other commodity, as part of their interest in asserting private ownership over our public resource. If we fail to place controls on the water-for-sale industry now, we will allow this to continue and risk losing public control over the Great Lakes, as well as decisions on how our water is used and whether it is protected.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Beverage Marketing Corporation: [www.bottledwater.org](http://www.bottledwater.org)