



A non-partisan, citizen-run organization focused on increasing citizen engagement in local government.

City of Kingston Water Department
Matthew Dysard, Superintendent
111 Jansen Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
Sent via email: water@kingston-ny.gov

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Re: Potential Water Bottling Plant/Facility in the Town of Ulster in 2024

Dear Superintendent Dysard;

We recently learned that the Town of Ulster may be facilitating discussions with a water bottling plant/facility/company to be located at one (or more) of the following locations: 1700-1798 and 1600-1678 Enterprise Drive (Kingston Realty Team, LLC), 90-98 Boices Lane (Abe's Realty) and/or 80-88 and 70-78 Boices Lane (BSD Realty), and particularly Building 52.

It is unclear whether the town intends to use any of the 700,000 GPD of drinking water that it already purchases from the City of Kingston through an agreement that extends 99 years (as of 2004).

The effort to locate [Niagara Bottling in the Town of Ulster a decade ago](#) led to a water powers charter revision that would ultimately require the Kingston Common Council and Mayor to approve any water sales outside of the city's corporate

boundaries. We are grateful that there is now a greater level of protection for our community.

We are concerned that the Town of Ulster, while purchasing 700,000 GPD of drinking water, may be using far less and looking for a way to profit from the portion that they are paying for but not using. If that is the case, should the 2004 water agreement between the town and city be modified to exclude commercial sales? Furthermore, as any project of this kind must undergo an environmental review, we would request that it be a requirement that the impact of drinking water be evaluated in light of the highly successful water powers referendum.

In 2014 and 2015, the City of Kingston residents unambiguously told our local, county and state officials that we don't want our municipal drinking water to be bottled and sold. Also, it is even clearer today that current climate conditions (such as recurring and more severe droughts) and the unrelenting growth of the bottled water industry are masking our current water crisis and hindering efforts to provide reliable drinking water for all.

We ask that the water board look into this and to place the matter on an upcoming agenda for public discussion.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Martin

On behalf of the advisory board

KingstonCitizens.org

cc: Mayor Steve Noble, City of Kingston; Ward 9 Council Member and Water Board Liaison Michelle Hirsch; Emilie Hauser, President, City of Kingston CAC; Kingston Water Board (please forward to): Dennis Crosswell, Joanne Seche, James Noble, Patrick Hickey, Nate Horowitz; Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger; Deputy County Executive Amanda Lavalle; Ulster County Planning Department Dennis Doyle; Laura Hartmann, Co-chair, TownOfUlsterCitizens.org; Regis Obijiski, Co-Chair, TownOfUlsterCitizens.org; KingstonCitizens.org Advisory Board: Jennifer O'Donnelle, Sarah Wenk, Lynn Eckert, Tanya Garment

