



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government

Legislative Council

November 3, 2014

81LCR10-Water Bottles

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A Resolution in Support of the Sustainability Think Tank Effort to Reduce the Sale of Single-Use Water Bottles

Resolution History

On April 26, 2011, the student government’s 77th Legislative Council passed 77LCR01, a resolution coauthored with Take Back the Tap leaders to address single-use water bottle sales on Boulder campus. While this resolution encouraged the development of a strategy geared towards infrastructure development and a reduction in single-use water bottle sales, many strategies still need to be considered for its legacy to have lasting campus impact. CUSG’s sustainability agency has since been increased through 80LCB18, mandating the Sustainability Commission in April 2014. This commission, currently operating as the Sustainability Think Tank, has undertaken renewed efforts to address the

sale of single-use water bottles on campus at venues such as the UMC, Housing and Dining retail centers, and at athletic stadiums as an area of environmental concern. Made from the oil-derivative polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE), these bottles take an estimated 450-1000 years to degrade in the landfill. Yet, 24,903 plastic water bottles were sold in the UMC during fiscal year 2012/2013. On top of the UMC sales, an additional 20,000 bottles of water were consumed at Housing and Dining retail centers. To change this trend, members of the Sustainability Think Tank have already engaged various stakeholders in the bottled water business including the UMC, Housing and Dining, and Take Back the Tap at CU.

Resolution Summary

This resolution seeks CUSG's full support for ongoing Sustainability Think Tank efforts to reduce the sale of single-use water bottles on campus.

Whereas, Legislative Council bills 68LCB12, 72LCB15, and 77LCB05 set clear goals for waste reduction and elimination from CUSG cost centers, student groups, events funded by student fees, and events taking place on student fee funded premises;

Whereas, these goals include the achievement of a 90% landfill waste diversion rate from cost centers by 2015;

Whereas, the Sustainability Think Tank has identified the sale of single-use water bottles on campus as environmentally concerning;

Whereas, it takes three to five liters of water to produce one 1-liter bottle of water¹;

Whereas, the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR) reported that only 38.6 percent of plastic water bottles were recycled in the United States in 2011²;

Whereas, Pacific Institute estimates that the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil were needed to produce the plastic bottles sold in America in 2006³;

¹ *Five Reasons to Ban Bottled Water*. Publication. The Council of Canadians, Mar. 2014. Web. 02 Nov. 2014.

² "PET Water Bottle Recycling Rate Jumps Almost 20 Percent." *Plastics News*. Crain Communications Inc., 20 Feb. 2013. Web. 02 Nov. 2014.

³ "Bottled Water and Energy Fact Sheet." *Pacific Institute: Research for People and the Planet*. Pacific Institute, Feb. 2007. Web. 02 Nov. 2014.

Whereas, the energy used to pump, process, transport and refrigerate our bottled water is estimated to be over 50 million barrels of oil every year⁴;

Whereas, CUSG has a distinguished legacy of leading sustainable initiatives and practices on campus;

Whereas, single-use water bottles leaves an unnecessary, inefficient, long-lasting environmental footprint;

Whereas, CUSG believes that more sustainable alternatives to single-use water bottles should be pursued at cost centers and across campus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Government, that:


Section 1: It is the view of Legislative Council that CUSG fully supports the Sustainability Think Tank's ongoing effort to reduce the sale of single-use water bottles on campus. This resolution includes the sale of single-use water bottles everywhere on campus, including cost centers.

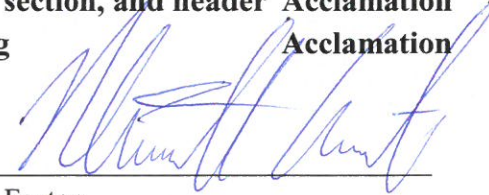
Section 2: Upon passage of this resolution, the Sustainability Think Tank we begin the development of significant, long-lasting policy directed towards the reduction of single-use water bottle sales on CU Boulder Campus.

Section 3: Upon passage, this resolution will be distributed to the UMC, CUSG executive staff, CUSG Sustainability Think Tank, the Environmental Center, Residence Hall Association, Housing and Dining, CU Athletics, and media sources.

Vote Count

11/6/14	Passed on 1 st Reading	Acclamation
11/13/14	Amended History section, Whereas section, and header	Acclamation
11/13/14	Passed on 2 nd Reading	Acclamation

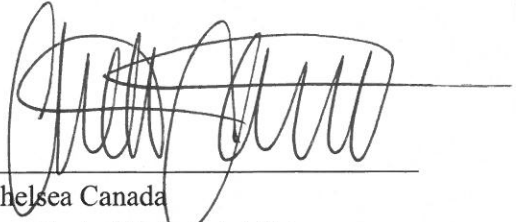

Juedon Kebede
President of Student Affairs


Mitchell Fenton
Legislative Council President

⁴ Brown, Lester R. "Chapter 8. Building an Energy-Efficient Economy." *World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse*. Earth Policy Institute. 2011. Web. 02 Nov. 2014.



Lora Roberts
President of Internal Affairs



Chelsea Canada
President of External Affairs