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Sent: Friday, October 9, 2009
To: MCWC Members
Subject: (PWW)... Press Release for Oct. 9, 2009

Protect Wells Water

For Immediate Release:
October 9, 2009

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LOCAL WATER RESOURCES GROUP FORMED IN WELLS

November 3rd, Wells Voters are being asked to approve or deny a proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance to... Regulate the Large Scale...Extraction of Groundwater...". If approved and enacted, this proposed ordinance will permit the withdrawal of subsurface "groundwater" on an unprecedentedly large scale.

To ensure that the proposed ordinance has been written to their corporation's satisfaction, the lead attorney in Maine for multinational water extractor, Nestlé Waters, owner of the Poland Spring brand, has attended practically all Town board meetings on water. As the vote is drawing near, Nestlé has begun to advertise extensively in the local media.

Protect Wells Water (PWW) is a diverse group of local residents, whose aim is to inform on water-related issues, laws and proposals that affect well users, public water supply users, and our natural inland and coastal ecosystems.

PWW's July, 2009, town wide survey of over 350 voting-age residents revealed an overwhelming majority opposed to large scale extraction. Nevertheless, selectmen voted to push forward with their proposed ordinance.

State of Maine groundwater laws are under review by multiple state agencies and commissions. A major issue is that Maine's laws, as a whole, do not protect groundwater to the same extent that they protect lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. A water extractor may damage neighboring water supplies and resources with little legal liability; and, a local town ordinance cannot offer more protection than State law now allows.

PWW's immediate goals are:

- 1) to ensure voters are accurately informed about the proposed ordinance now on the ballot, such that they will vote against enactment of the ordinance.
- 2) to extend the moratorium that currently prevents large scale water extraction, until the State enacts legislation that fully protects Maine's groundwater.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure the future quality and abundance of water within our town.

PWW urges a NO vote on Article 1 on the Town ballot.

Additional information is available at www.ProtectWellsWater.com