

**Why Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Wells Utility  
Should Not Sign an Extraction Contract With Nestle**

<i>Facts about the Contract</i>	<i>Talking Points for Letters to the Editor</i>
30 year contract with five possibilities to extend the contract five years (a total of 55 years)	In this time of global climate change it is tremendously problematic for any public utility to award a private entity access to such a large amount of water for such a long period of time.
Poland Spring can terminate the contract whenever they want as long as they give a year's notice, but the KKW Utility cannot.	Doesn't this seem unfair and undemocratic?
Poland Spring will be required to send a yearly review to KKW about if they violated any extraction regulations.	This is like the fox watching the hen house and then eating the hen.
KKW gets \$250,000 signing bonus from Poland Spring	That's only \$8,333/yr over the life of the contract. This water is priceless--a part of our natural heritage--and is not for sale for corporate profit.

**Other Talking Points**

<i>Point</i>	<i>Relevance to Kennebunkport</i>
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Major reports from the Union of Concerned Scientists and Woods Hole Institute indicate that Maine's climate is indeed changing. Over the next 20-50 years, Maine will experience greater periods of droughts in the summer. Our coast line will rise. Spring (our aquifer recharge season) will become shorter and earlier. With an uncertainty about precipitation in the coming years, it is irresponsibly for KKW to sign away their water for 30 years (potentially 55).</li> <li>● True ecosystem conservation that values the rights of nature to exist is a cornerstone in the fight to mitigate climate change. An intact hydrological system is necessary for ecosystems to remain healthy and to sequester carbon. If the Nature Conservancy was truly committed to conservation, they would not allow the bulk extraction of water from Branch Brook.</li> <li>● Studies have shown that when an area's annual precipitation decreases, its aquifers' capacity to hold water also decreases. Will the people of Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Wells be assured access to water in 20 years if Poland Spring is in town?</li> <li>● With a rising coastline there is no reason for a coastal community like Wells and Kennebunkport to remove 250,000-500,000 gallons of water a day and risk salt-water intrusion into their water supply</li> </ul>

Aquifer Depletion	The world's aquifers are running dry. It is essential that those still healthy (like Branch Brook) be managed for sustainability and water equity. Profit for a multinational corporation does not fit into this picture.
Water Shortage	The EPA warns that if current water use continues unchecked, 36 states will suffer from water shortages in the next 5 years. Water rich states like Maine must recognize their water as a commons and manage it in the public trust. Commercial water extraction for private profit will only worsen the coming water crisis by deepening the divide between those who have access to water and those who don't.
Environmental Degradation	Groundwater mining permanently reduces the earth's capacity to store water. In California, for example, overuse of the underground water supplies in the Central Valley has resulted in a loss of over 40 percent of the combined storage capacity of all human-made surface reservoirs in the state.
The Corruption of the Nature Conservancy	The Nature Conservancy purchased 560 acres of the land over Branch Brook. The non-profit writes what they "are protecting here is exquisitely rare, and nothing is more essential to people than the purity of their drinking water. We're proud that, working together, we've contributed to a stable and safe source of public drinking water, a diverse wildlife habitat and an area of great natural beauty that can be enjoyed by everyone." Huh interesting that now they want to let Poland Spring run a pipeline through this habitat to ship out its water. Its probably because Poland Spring donates millions of dollars every year to the Nature Conservancy, is on its Coporate Conservation Board, and they share the same attorney (Chip Ahrens from Portland's Pierce Atwood Law Firm).

Water is Life!  
 Everyone has the right to use water,  
 no one should have the right to  
 profit from it!  
 Ecosystems have the right to exist!  
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