



January 5, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

I read with great interest of your decision to cut the budget for House offices. News reports focused on recent bottled water purchases, to the effect of \$190,000 in the first quarter of 2010. If you do indeed choose to reduce or eliminate this expenditure, I salute you for it.

Water is a resource that is essentially free at the tap. The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) provides drinking water to members of Congress, more than 600,000 residents, 16.6 million annual visitors, and 700,000 people who work in the District. If fiscal responsibility is your aim, I should point out that our water costs about a penny a gallon. Bottled water costs hundreds of times more. Choosing tap also protects the environment from the harms of plastic bottles, and helps support investment in the nation's drinking water infrastructure.

We would like to offer you the following:

- Free reusable water bottles for members of Congress. Convenience is important and a reusable water bottle is a simple tool to demonstrate support for tap water and the environment. We have attached ten such bottles for you and your top staff as a sample.
- Free water quality testing in any congressional buildings, including taps and water fountains. Water in the District meets all federal drinking water standards, and we conduct water quality testing everyday throughout the city. We understand that individuals may have questions about the safety of water in individual buildings, and this is a free service we offer to residential and commercial customers.

Please feel free to have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 787-2600 to make arrangements. Congratulations on your new role, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

George S. Hawkins, General Manager