

**A Resolution to Ban the Sale of Plastic Water Bottles at The Ohio State University's  
Columbus Campus**

Kinza Sami (for herself, Bailey Hoppes, Tommy Bowles, Chris Weller, and Vikas Munjal) introduced the following legislation to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

\* \* \*

**Whereas** the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

**Whereas** it is part of the University's mission to "Implement specific, "world-leading" university-wide operational goals to reduce resource consumption, neutralize carbon emissions and minimize waste,"<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** it is also part of the University's mission to "Achieve zero waste by 2025 by diverting 90% of waste away from landfills,"<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** it is also part of the University's mission to "Develop university-wide standards for targeted environmentally preferred products and fully implement preferable products and services by 2025,"<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** the Facilities Operations and Development Department defines sustainability as "creating a campus that is timeless, maintainable and flexible; incorporating responsible use of fiscal, environmental and human resources; and having minimal environmental impact,"<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas** the reduction of plastic waste on The Ohio State University's Columbus campus fits into the missions and values above, and

**Whereas** by using a reusable bottle, an average person can eliminate the need for approximately 100 plastic bottles per year,<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas** bottled water requires 1,580 times as much energy to produce and distribute as tap water,<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osu.edu/SustGoals%20FINAL%20updated%20030817.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fod.osu.edu/sustainability>

<sup>3</sup> <http://students.arch.utah.edu/courses/Arch4011/Recycling%20Facts1.pdf>

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39 **Whereas** the sale of bottled water on The Ohio State University’s Columbus campus  
40 contributes negatively to our overall environmental impact, and

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42 **Whereas** more can be done to reduce overall plastic waste on The Ohio University’s  
43 Columbus campus, and eliminating the sale of plastic water bottles across campus will be  
44 a small step in the right direction, and

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46 **Whereas** The Ohio State University has a ten-year contract with Coca-Cola expiring at  
47 the end of June of 2018,<sup>5</sup> and

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49 **Whereas** the sale of bottled water on campus is contrary to The Ohio State University’s  
50 mission to contribute to a sustainable environment, and

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52 **Whereas** The Ohio State University’s Office of Energy and Environment considers The  
53 Ohio State University “a leader among sustainable campuses,”<sup>6</sup> and

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55 **Whereas** a number of universities, including Big Ten institutions such as Northwestern  
56 University<sup>7</sup> and the University of Wisconsin<sup>8</sup> have already taken initiatives to become  
57 bottled-water-free on their campuses, and

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59 **Whereas** there are feasible alternatives to bottled water, including, but not limited to  
60 steps that The Ohio State University has already begun taking, such as providing  
61 incoming students with reusable water bottles, and

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63 **Whereas** this resolution works in concert and accordance with 49-R-57: A Resolution to  
64 Support the Implementation of Additional Water Bottle Filling Stations at The Ohio State  
65 University – Main Campus;<sup>9</sup>

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67 **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports The  
68 Ohio State University in taking prompt measures towards going bottled-water-free, and

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<sup>4</sup> <http://pacinst.org/publication/bottled-water-and-energy-a-fact-sheet/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.thelantern.com/2013/12/refreshing-restricting-ohio-states-32m-deal-coca-cola-brings-questions-transparency-costs-vs-benefits/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://oeo.osu.edu/welcome.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.northwestern.edu/faculty-senate/documents/2014-2015/Bottled-Water-Free-NU-FS-Resolution-Apr-15.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.banthebottle.net/articles/badgers-rethink-bottled-water/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc\\_3262017\\_17593142.pdf](https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_3262017_17593142.pdf)

70 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that as a bottled-water-free campus, The Ohio State  
71 University will not sell bottled water in on-campus locations, including, but not limited  
72 to, convenience stores and vending machines, and  
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74 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government believes that  
75 The Ohio State University has not only the potential, but also a responsibility to be a  
76 leader in sustainable practices and that going bottled-water-free is an important step in  
77 this process.  
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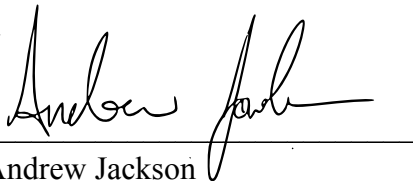
Floor Vote: Passed

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85 Andrew Jackson

86 President

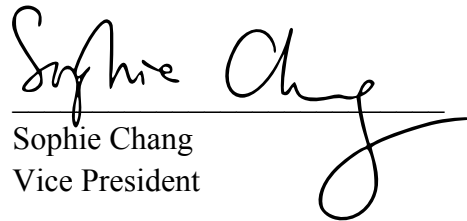
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Sophie Chang

Vice President

Date Adopted: November 29, 2017

Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_