

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY, HAMILTON COLLEGE
September 19th, 2016

Recommending measures to reduce bottled water use at Hamilton College

RESOLUTION

Introduced – Jack Martin ‘19

WHEREAS, The Hamilton College Sustainability Website states that “...students, faculty and staff at Hamilton are committed to protecting and sustaining the environment”; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton College has a history of advocating environmental and sustainable responsibility; and

WHEREAS, The Hamilton Climate Action Plan states that “Hamilton College is committed to being a **role model for positive climate action** by becoming climate neutral over time”; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton College purchased more than 41,100 single-use water bottles from **Bon Appétit** last year alone; and

WHEREAS, The *Environmental Research Letters* reports that in 2007, U.S. plastic water bottle production required between 32 and 54 million gallons of oil, and three out of every four of those bottles ended up in landfills or in an incinerator; and

WHEREAS, The Mohawk Valley Water Authority’s water “rival[s] the quality of any bottled water” and “meets or surpasses all Federal and New York State Drinking Water Standards”; and

WHEREAS, public tap water is safe and significantly more affordable and accessible, and environmentally sustainable than bottled water; and

WHEREAS, large-scale groundwater extraction disproportionately affects low income and minority communities by depleting local water supplies; and

WHEREAS, universities and colleges around the country including Wesleyan, Amherst, Tufts, Williams, and Colby and many others have already made efforts campus wide to curb their bottled water use; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Central Council of the Student Assembly:

1. Recommends the following measures to the administration for consideration and possible implementation;
 - a. Reduce Hamilton College’s consumption of non-emergency related single-serving bottles of water to 4,000 bottles by 2020
 - b. Encourage the use of refillable containers at Hamilton College facilities and functions



2. Recommends Student Assembly take the following measures;
 - a. Support efforts to educate the campus community regarding the value and benefits of using Mohawk Valley Water Authority for all its water needs;
 - b. Continue the procedure of not funding single-use water bottles for clubs and organizations on campus

