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BOTTLED WATER NO SAFER THAN TAP WATER

Bottled water is the world's fastest growing beverage, but consumers would be better served by simply turning on the tap, asserts an environmental group.

Bottlers of water generally capitalize on consumer concerns about municipal water supplies, creating demand for their product via an association with pristine environs¹. Some bottled waters, however, differ from tap water merely by being distributed in bottles rather than through pipes, according to a report commissioned by Switzerland-based World Wildlife Fund International.

"Bottled water may be no safer or healthier than tap water, while selling for up to 1,000 times the price," the report said. The reason, according to the environmental group, is an absence of standards regulating bottled water. "In fact," said the report, "there are more standards regulating tap water in Europe and the United States than those applied to the bottled water industry." [...]

The report says the \$22-billion-a-year bottled water industry uses 1.5 million tons of plastic annually to package water. The manufacture and disposal of plastic causes toxic chemicals to be released into the environment.

Furthermore, the group worries about release of carbon dioxide, a major threat² to the ozone, from the transportation of bottled water. The report said billions of gallons of bottled water are consumed outside of the country of their origin.

ABC News, Mark Baumgartner, 3 May 2019

1-Pristine environs : non-polluted environment

2-Threat: menace

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