

MEDIA ALERT (Issued Oct. 25, 2017)

Trash Action Work Force Protest of Disposable Water Bottle Litter Polluting NOVA Waterways, Parks and Communities

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The Northern Virginia Trash Action Work Force (TAWF) is holding a peaceful demonstration and public information campaign protesting the massive increase of plastic water bottles in the creeks, parks, and streets of northern Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The protest will be outside the offices of the International Bottled Water Association, a trade association dedicated to promoting the interests of water bottlers through lobbying, advertising, and public affairs campaigns.

TAWF's goal is to draw attention to the significant role of disposable plastic water bottles in the scourge of litter in Northern Virginia's waterways, parks, cities, roadways, and neighborhoods. Members of the Work Force have been leading stream cleanups for many years. Despite hundreds of volunteers removing thousands of bags of trash from local streams, the trash just keeps coming back, with disposable water bottles comprising a significant portion. Trash tossed from car windows or dropped in parking lots, roads, lawns and parks is eventually washed down storm drains into local streams and ends up in the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay, and eventually, the Atlantic Ocean.

WHO: Northern Virginia Trash Action Work Force is a coalition of citizens and organizations dedicated to reducing trash in our streams, rivers, watersheds, parks and communities.

WHAT: The peaceful demonstration will include a march around the building housing the headquarters of the International Bottled Water Association

WHEN: October 26, 2017, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

WHERE: 1700 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, and outside the King Street Metro

TAWF partners include the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Friends of Accotink Creek, Friends of Dyke Marsh, Friends of Huntley Meadows, Friends of Lake Accotink Park, Corporate Accountability International, Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, Sierra Club Great Falls Group, Sierra Club Mt Vernon Group, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, Clean Water Action, Potomac River Keepers Network, 350 Fairfax, and Alice Ferguson Foundation. Citizens, civic organizations and industrial groups are invited to join and partner with TAWF in addressing the threat posed by increasing amounts of trash, including single use bottles and all kinds of litter.

We commend IBWA's support and promotion of recycling, plastic use reduction, and endorsement of the Environmental Protection Agency's research on threats to water quality. We strongly urge IBWA to drop opposition to bottle deposit laws and the prohibition of disposable water bottle sales in National Parks.

Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/novatawf/>, [#trashdayofaction](https://twitter.com/trashdayofaction).

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