



August 23, 2012

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Chairman, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

I am writing to request that DC tap water be offered as a beverage option for the 57<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration Ceremonies. In a recent announcement, you selected bottled Saratoga Spring Water for inaugural ceremonial events when local tap water is a clean and affordable option. We hope the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies will reconsider your selection of bottled water and instead support the nation's drinking water systems by choosing DC tap water.

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) is proud to provide retail water and wastewater service to more than 600,000 residents and 16.6 million annual visitors of the nation's capital. Water authorities are tasked with a monumental responsibility—to provide life-sustaining water services on a 24/7/365 basis while protecting the environment, and doing it all with limited funding.

DC Water and utilities across the U.S. enable communities to confidently and reliably drink from their taps. DC tap water is a penny per gallon and bottled water costs 100 times more. As we face mounting challenges with aging infrastructure in need of replacement and repair, DC Water has committed \$3.8 billion over 10 years in capital investments for the delivery of clean tap water. Hundreds of water samples are tested each week throughout the District to ensure we meet public health standards set by Congress.

DC Water can provide assistance to your Committee in providing and promoting tap water during the inaugural ceremony. If you choose to provide costly, environmentally harmful bottled water, we encourage you to at least provide attendees with a choice and also offer local DC tap water. We offer 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.
- Free water quality testing in any congressional buildings, including taps and water fountains.

Please feel free to have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 787-2600 to make arrangements.

Sincerely,

George S. Hawkins, General Manager

CC:

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
The Honorable John Boehner  
The Honorable Eric Cantor  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Harry Reid