

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Joe Casello and Senator Annette Taddeo File Legislation Aimed At Fighting Abuse Of Florida's Water Supply
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:35:42 AM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2021

CONTACT

Office of Representative Joe Casello
Troy Gras
954 892 0083

Representative Joe Casello and Senator Annette Taddeo File Legislation Aimed at Fighting Abuse of Florida's Water Supply

Tallahassee, Fla. – On the heels of Florida's approval of Nestlé's plan to [tap 1 million gallons a day from a Florida spring](#) for bottled water, **Representative Joe Casello (D-Boynton Beach)** has filed [HB 1237](#) and Senate colleague **Senator Annette Taddeo (D-Miami)** has filed [SB 652](#). This proposed legislation will impose fees on bottle water operators for extracting water from State waters, including water from our Florida Springs. The proceeds will be deposited in the Wastewater Treatment and Stormwater Management Revolving Loan Trust Fund, which will be eligible for federal matching funds, and prioritize resources for septic to sewer and water infrastructure projects throughout the State.

"Fresh water is not a sustainable resource and thinking otherwise is taking this precious commodity for granted." said **Representative Casello**. "Nestle made \$7.8billion in global sales in 2019 from just bottled water. We cannot stand by while the industry drains our State and profits off resources that belong to all Floridians, for the meager price of a \$115 permit fee."

"It is unconscionable that certain corporate water bottling companies exploit our state water, without paying their fair share, while all other companies who bottle water through municipalities pay for their water. This is a corporate welfare loophole that has allowed these companies to exploit our precious water supply. This bill will help us bring to an end this abusive practice," said **Senator Taddeo**. "At a time when we desperately need funding for septic to sewer projects, we should not be giving bottling companies our springs water for free."

###