

# One percent of what?

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Ewart, Mich. -

Dear Editor,

It is difficult to write about the reasons not to do business with Nestlé. There are so many that you will be well on your way to a novel.

My experience began in 2000 when Nestles' stump man, Brendan O'Rourke started attending our township meetings. He'd show up in his northern Michigan "uniform" of plaid flannel shirt, Dockers and work boots, and crony-up to the board members. He spewed percentages, like the groundwaterrecharges at 1 percent per year. One percent of what? He cited reports and showed us monitoring graphs in living color. None of us understood the meaning of any of it!

Short of doing your own studies, you were to take his word for it all. You put the fox in charge of the henhouse.

Secondly, they promised 200 jobs. It came to light that 150 of those jobs were truck drivers who would haul their product in and out of the plant. Who does that? Does the convenient store owner count the beer distributor truck driver as one of his employees? To date and with a healthy tax abatement from the State of Michigan, even our Governor isn't sure how many are employed at the plant.

I am a member of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation. We took Nestle to court in 2003. We won initially-they appealed. Pumping was reduced in the meantime. In the fall of 2008, Nestlé conducted a pumping "experiment" and wants to use this report to reopen and overturn our victory! "Lawyers-start your engines." (And your clocks.)

I mentioned a novel and there is one. It's called "Bottlemania" by Elizabeth Royte. It describes the nightmare that Nestle continues to visit on the small community of Fryeburg, Maine.

Will you give her a reason to write a novel about your community?