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CONTACT: Jane Lazgin, 203-863-0111

Nestlé Waters Seeks Bottle Bill Fix to Promote Recycling and Consumers Health

May 19, 2009

Greenwich, CT – Nestlé Waters North America CEO Kim Jeffery issued the following statement supporting a broad-based legal challenge to New York’s Returnable Container Act (“Bottle Bill”):

“Nestlé Waters North America has a history of supporting recycling efforts, and we support environmentally sound bottle deposit laws. We believe the best ones encourage recycling of all containers, do not hurt consumers, and do not favor special interests. The New York Bottle Bill fails all three tests. Moreover, the new law is unconstitutional, and a solid foundation is needed to build a lasting and effective recycling program.

“We can stand behind a bottle bill that promotes a convenient and comprehensive recycling program, but the current law actually hurts community based recycling efforts by removing a critical revenue source from curbside recycling. Also, unlike other bottle bills that return funds from deposit programs to community recycling programs, the funds generated by this law would be earmarked by Albany for unrelated items.

“Even more inexplicable is the competitive advantage the bill gives to non-carbonated, sugar-filled drinks over healthier options like bottled water. In its current form, this bill makes some high calorie beverages more affordable for consumers. We need a bill that promotes healthy, convenient options for consumers and parents.

“We would prefer that the legislature fix these problems, but the deadline for compliance is fast approaching, and we need to ensure we can provide bottled water to our customers. All over the country, there are good examples of bottle bills that work for consumers and for the environment. We don’t need to settle for one that discourages both healthy choices and environmental stewardship.”

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