



## TAP VS. BOTTLE SMACKDOWN

The gloves are off in the latest round of sparring between tap water advocates and the \$50 billion bottled water industry.

Tap water suppliers, such as the Santa Clara Valley Water District\* tout the quality of their product vs. bottled water, noting that tap water is more heavily regulated by USEPA, whereas bottled water is more gently regulated by the FDA.

Environmental groups, such as the National Resources Defense Council, complain of the millions of gallons of oil required to make the bottles, the 85% of those bottles that end up in landfills, and the cost of transporting water in terms of fuel and carbon emissions.

Religious organizations, such as the National Council of Churches, decry the industrial purchase, repackaging, and resale at over 1,000 times the cost as unjust, immoral, and unethical.

On the other side of the argument, bottled water advocates argue that bottled water provides consistent safety, quality, taste, convenience, and over fifty billion dollars a year (and growing).

The fight will no doubt continue for many more rounds.

\*(video at <http://www.valleywater.org/tapvbottle/>)



**'Whisky'**  
derives from the  
Gaelic **'uisge  
beatha'** (ooshgy-  
bay), which means  
**'water of life'**

## DRUGS IN WATER SUPPLY

The AP provided dramatic headlines this week with their alarmist, yet relatively uninformative series on pharmaceuticals being found in water supplies (even if the concentrations were around one part per bazillion).

Still, we suggest that you stick to Guinness and Jameson this St. Patty's Day weekend, just to be on the safe side.

