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A not-for-profit organization

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Letter to the Editor
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear Editor:

As the comprehensive reporting of the New York Times has been demonstrating, the laws designed to protect our drinking water – and many of the systems that deliver the water – are badly in need of updating.

Given that only two percent of all water going through pipes today is ingested by humans, it is important for concerned consumers to realize they can find affordable final contaminant barriers for their families. Like house alarms and residential sprinklers, these home-based devices supplement the public systems, providing an extra layer of safety and assurance.

The commitment of time and resources to reform the laws and rebuild our systems will be enormous, especially in a time of growing deficit concerns.

Consumers should take the time to find the kinds of systems that meet their local needs. These might be reverse osmosis, activated carbon blocks, or advanced oxidation, for example. Through independent certifying regimes, homeowners can also buy products that have passed rigorous testing.

In instances of clearly harmful water, local governments have offered assistance to residents to purchase home-based systems. It would be wrong to think these products can or should take the place of sound public policies that protect everyone. But policymakers and consumers should see them as a potentially key part of the solution. Those looking for more information on this issue, including a list of certified products, can find help at wqa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter J. Censky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Peter J. Censky
Executive Director
Water Quality Association