

*[Sample for City Council/Board of Selectmen]*  
**Safe Drinking Water Protection Pledge**

WHEREAS, May 2-8 2004 is recognized nationally as Drinking Water Week; and

WHEREAS, safe and affordable drinking water is essential for protection of public health, safety, and the environment, and for the maintenance of communities, a healthy economy, and a high standard of living; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of local government, state government, and the national government, and of all American citizens, to provide for and to protect clean drinking water supplies for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, 2004 is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act; which is the federal law that protects our nation's drinking water sources, including lakes, rivers, and aquifers, and seeks to ensure Americans will enjoy clean and safe drinking water; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council/Board of Selectmen of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby recognizes the accomplishments and values of the Safe Drinking Water Act in helping to make our city/town a healthy, thriving, and vibrant community, and further that *we commit to take the following actions in 2004 to better preserve and protect our drinking water supplies:*

- establish a drinking water supply protection committee comprised of citizens, representatives from citizens' groups, neighboring communities, and local officials, *and*
- support the creation of an Action Plan to implement recommendations made in the Source Water Assessment Plan, which serves as a road map for drinking water protection and helps address threats to our drinking water supply; *and*
- request an annual update on drinking water protection measures taken and progress made on implementing the Source Water Assessment Plan in the Town Report; *and*
- encourage the provision of Public Education to citizens and businesses on how they can help protect their drinking water supplies; *and*
- promote the careful review of all development proposals in drinking water protection areas to minimize any potential adverse impacts on drinking water supplies; *and*
- promote the careful review of local zoning bylaws/ordinances and general bylaws/ordinances to ensure they are fully protective of drinking water resources and make recommendations for changes to the bylaws/ordinances that will be included in the annual progress report; *and*

*hereby adopt this Pledge by vote of the City Council/Board of Selectmen:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Optional Points which could be added, for example:**

***WHEREAS***, raw sewage from sewage treatment plant discharges and malfunctioning septic systems still flow through many communities across the United States; and

***WHEREAS***, toxic pollution continues to plague our lakes, rivers, aquifers and threatens public health, drinking water supplies, and the health of aquatic habitats; and

***WHEREAS***, wetlands continue to be lost at an alarming rate within the United State and these wetlands are important resources that help maintain clean drinking water quality;

***WHEREAS***, regular maintenance of the capital assets of the water system, including treatment facilities, storage tanks, and the distribution system, is essential to ensure the provision of high quality drinking water at the tap and sufficient water pressure and flow for fire fighting; and

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,....***

- support the regular inspection of the watershed and/or zone of contribution for the drinking water supply; and
- monitor prohibited activities and land uses that were grandfathered in primary recharge areas of the watershed and/or zone of contribution for their drinking water supply and investigate options for removing these activities and land uses; and
- work with adjacent cities and towns to protect the water supply protection areas extending into their communities and will help do the same for their water supply protection areas extending into this municipality; and
- encourage the development and implementation of a detailed surface water supply protection plan and wellhead protection plan that goes into greater detail than the Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Assessment Plan;
- encourage the development or updating of a formal Emergency Response Plan to deal with spills or emergencies, to be supplemented by developing a joint emergency response plan with fire department, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, local and state emergency officials, and a coordinated emergency response plan with local drill teams;
- conduct inspections of commercial and industrial activities that pose a threat to the drinking water supply;
- require a popular vote on any proposal to privatize the local water system;
- consider adopting a progressive water rate structure which would generate more revenue that could be used for increased drinking water protection activities and infrastructure improvements while encouraging greater conservation and less waste of water;
- promoting the maintenance of adequate stream flows upstream and downstream from drinking water sources to protect aquatic habitat;
- encourage the use of innovate water conservation measures such as low flow toilets, minimum of 6 inch soil for lawns, and rain barrels for all new developments;
- conduct an evaluation of current Best Management Practices in all local zoning requirements to ensure that there are no unintentional, deleterious impacts to the drinking water quality of the supply;
- promote use of Low Impact Development in water supply protection areas to reduce potential adverse impacts from nonpoint source pollution to water supplies;