

For the Motion:

Prior to bottling the water, Koyo performed a disinfection process to ensure its safety. To support this claim, officials tested the water and found that it posed no threat or risk to human life. Additionally, none of the bottled water was recalled and no embargoes were enforced. From these results, it seems that Koyo did not endanger any of its customers while delivering a safely treated product.

Against the Motion:

There are strict laws regarding the licensure of sourcing drinking water. Koyo clearly violated these laws when they sourced and sold water from an unapproved source. It is clear that they were breaking procedure, as they installed a bypass system specifically for the rejected water. Additionally, the fines levied against the company act as punishment.

My Position:

I fully support the strict protocol and consequences behind legal water sourcing. Water is essential to human life, and as such is a staple worldwide. If bottled water is contaminated, it can have major repercussions and endanger the lives of many consumers. Even though Koyo's actions did not land up hurting anyone, they very well could have. Instead of circumventing the laws, Koyo should have undertaken the necessary research and procedures to legally treat water from the alternate source.

Discussion:

It is always important to note the factors that influenced Koyo's decision to break the rules. It seems as though the laws behind water sourcing should be updated to reflect different factors. Koyo never would have been fined had the anonymous source stepped forward to blow the whistle. Since the final product did not pose a health/safety threat, officials would not have known that any violation was occurring; Koyo performed the correct disinfection process but did not have the proper permit to use water from the locations they did. To rectify this issue, the government can perform random audits on the sourcing processes that bottling companies use in addition to testing their water. The government should be allowed to require a certain level of transparency from all industries. Full transparency is extremely important in the food and beverage industries, as they can directly affect consumers' physical health. The same level of transparency cannot be required in Financial Services/Military, as those industries deal with a lot of private information.

<https://mauinow.com/2011/09/10/5-million-penalty-levied-against-deep-sea-water-manufacturer-koyo/>
<https://mauinow.com/2012/05/15/kona-sea-water-bottler-to-pay-2-million-fine/>