Plastic pollution is a crisis threatening our public health, our climate, our economy, and our planet. Plastic production and waste is fueling climate change and poisoning our bodies through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. And unless we act, things are only going to get worse. The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act, from U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) is the national strategy we need to address this growing crisis.

Plastic pollution has exploded into a global crisis that threatens our public health, economic security, and the future of our planet.

- Studies suggest that humans swallow a credit card’s worth of plastic every week. Exposure to plastic toxins has been linked to cancers, birth defects, and other ailments.
- The United States disposes or incinerates 32 million tons of plastic waste each year, burdening our local government budgets and overwhelming systems to handle it.
- Our recycling system is broken: just 8% of plastic waste in the United States is sorted for recycling, and less than 3% of plastic waste is recycled into a similar quality product.
- Global plastic production will triple by 2050, accounting for 20% of global oil consumption and emissions linked to plastic will reach 1.3 billion tons by 2030, equal to 300 coal-fired power plants.
- Emissions from plastic production and waste management facilities are disproportionately impacting low-income and minority communities, perpetuating the harm of historic environmental injustices.

Americans are fed up with the plastic pollution crisis and broadly support many steps to tackle the plastic pollution crisis. Recent polling shows that two-thirds of Americans believe that businesses that produce or use plastics in their products should pay for collecting, sorting, and recycling plastics.

The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act will provide national leadership to reduce the amount of wasteful plastic produced and reforming our broken waste and recycling systems. The bill will shift the burden of cleanup and waste management to where it belongs: on the corporations that produce this waste, by –

- Requiring big corporations take responsibility for their pollution, requiring producers of plastic products to design, manage, and finance waste and recycling programs.
- Spurring innovation, incentivizing big corporations to make reusable products and items that can actually be recycled.
- Creating a nationwide beverage container refund program, which is successful at the state level.
- Reducing and ban certain single-use plastic products that are not recyclable.
- Establishing minimum recycled content requirements for beverage containers, packaging, and food-service products.
- Generating massive investments in domestic recycling and composting infrastructure, while pressing pause on new plastic facilities until critical environment and health protections are put in place.

Together we can tackle plastic pollution with the bold action – but we must act now, before it’s too late.
I care about the environment and want to protect it from pollution of all kinds. Plastic pollution is a major concern that has reached crisis level. I am writing to ask you to support EPR house bill HF 4132 and senate bill SF 4518.

Researchers are alarmed by plastic pollution and report concerns for the harm it is doing to our health, the environment and how it is contributing to climate change. The microplastics and chemical additives we breath in and ingest are causing cancer, hormonal disruption, reproductive disorders, autoimmune diseases, chronic inflammation, obesity and fetal and child neurological damage. Microplastics and the toxic chemical additives are killing 100 million wildlife and sea creatures as well as soil microbes. A recent report confirmed that the chain of production of plastic is contributing to climate change. The U.S. plastics industry releases at least 232 million tons of CO2e gas emissions per year which is equivalent to the emissions from 116 average-sized (500-megawatt) coal-fired power plants and the plastic industry is on track to exceed coal-fired power emissions by 2030. This is why a bill that will decrease the amount of single use plastic and address plastic pollution is urgent.

This bill creates an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging. It requires environmental design standards, with a focus on protecting the environment and public health by reducing plastic packaging, toxic chemicals and demands on natural resources. This bill covers essentially all packaging waste generated by food service, bottled beverages, consumer products, and transportation of goods, and collected from residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional sources.

Currently Producers have little incentive to reduce packaging, remove toxic chemicals from packaging, or design packaging with recyclability in mind, in part because they have no legal responsibility to manage the costs or logistics of packaging disposal. Local governments are oftentimes responsible for the burdensome task of recycling and disposing of post-consumer waste, while having little control over potential sources of such waste, particularly packaging waste, that enter their jurisdictions. This bill addresses the unsustainability of excessive packaging waste.

The United States is the largest generator of plastic waste. Microplastics never completely break down so they accumulate in our environment. As of 2021, 15 million metric tons of plastic waste washes into the ocean each year. Without actions taken at every level of government that number is predicted to triple by the year 2050. Landfills are primarily located in low-income communities and communities of color. Reducing packaging waste will lessen this disproportionate burden and help the our state take steps towards environmental justice.

It is imperative that we pass the EPR bill HF 4132, SF 4518 and reduce plastic packaging. The best packaging is that which local governments never have to manage – compostable, reusable or refillable.

Thank you,
Producer Responsibility
Reduce plastic and hold polluters accountable

What is EPR for Packaging?

It’s a program to hold producers responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste. Producers decide what to use for packaging and consumers must accept it and pay for it. EPR for Packaging puts costs back on producers, so they make different choices. The goal is to redesign packaging to make it safer and more recyclable and to reduce packaging altogether.

Why do we need it?

Plastic pollution is a crisis, and more recycling can’t fix it. 40% of the waste stream is packaging. Local governments are responsible for recycling and have little control over what they must manage.

Producers decide what to use for packaging and they have no incentive to reduce, to eliminate toxic chemicals, or to design with recyclability in mind. Packaging producers continue to develop ‘new’ packaging which is often more complex. To get to a circular economy, we must standardize packaging, make it less complex, and get toxic chemicals out.
What will it do?

- Reduce the amount of packaging produced
- Increase the recyclability of packaging
- Increase reuse / refill options
- Remove toxic chemicals in packaging
- Increase post-consumer content in packaging
- Reduce litter and reduce trash going to landfills
- Create clear, consistent labeling
- Reduce hard-to-recycle packaging

How it works?

Brand owners pay a fee for the type and amount of packaging material they use. The fees are “eco-modulated” to incentivize reducing and redesigning packaging to make it more recyclable, compostable, or reusable.

Is this something new?

No, it’s already in use in the entire European Union and five Canadian provinces. Maine and Oregon passed EPR for Packaging bills in 2021.

How are fees used?

- Offset local government recycling costs
- Improve recycling infrastructure and education
- Pilot reuse / refill programs

Increase

* Reuse * Recycling * Recyclability * Recycled content

Decrease

* Confusion * Contamination * Toxic chemicals
Personal Actions

• Pledge to stop using balloons and single use plastic – take out containers, utensils, straws, Styrofoam, cups.

• Take reusable bags and containers to the store.

• Take reusable containers for your left overs at restaurants. If you forget your container, ask the wait person for some tin foil to take left overs. Tin foil can be recycled if you wash off all food and roll it up in a ball.

• Bring your own cup to work or coffee shop instead of using a disposable cup.

• Tell restaurants and businesses no thank you to straws, plastic bags, utensils and other giveaways you don’t need.

• Buy food in glass instead of plastic.

• Buy products in bulk or with less packaging.

• Use compostable bags for trash rather than plastic bags.

• Buy and use reusable or compostable over disposable items i.e. real silverware that you reuse instead of disposable silverware, cloth napkins over paper napkins, compostable products over throw away or plastic recyclable products.

• Separate out your food scraps and paper products that have food on them and compost them instead of sending them to the landfill. Methane from food scraps in the landfill contributes to global warming. If you have a city compost pickup program, use it. Visit www.mankatozerowaste.com for list of what is compostable.

• Recycle your glass, metal, paper, cardboard and plastics number 1,2 and 5 (if 5 is recyclable in your community).

• Borrow, rent or share items like party decorations, tools, baby clothes, books .
• Repair products rather than throw them away and buy new.

• Donate belongings or left-over food to nonprofits like the food shelf, church, thrift store, community center, school. The Good Samaritan Law exempts you from liability if you give left-over food to nonprofits like the homeless shelter or the Salvation Army.

• Buy products to last even if they cost a little more than low quality products that wear out quickly.

• Avoid personal care products that have polypropylene and polyethylene.

• Buy clothing and materials with sustainable materials such as 100% cotton clothing, not polyester.

• Buy a cora ball or filter (https://filtrol.net/) for your washing machine to catch polyester fibers.

• Recycle plastic bags, bubble wrap, film packaging, etc. in the Trex recycling bin at grocery stores. Visit https://recycle.trex.com/ to see what is recyclable.

• Buy air filters for your home (small particle size) and water filters for your faucet.

• Dust and vacuum frequently – Kitchens and bathrooms have the most microplastics.

• Avoid these Chemicals in cosmetics: triclosan,, dibutyl, phthalate, , EDC,DBP, parabens such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl and isobutyl parabens, benzophenone-3, polyethylene glycol, formaldehyde, sodium lauryl sulfate, BHA, BHT, MEA, DEA, TEA, ethanolamine, hydroquinone, methylisothiazolinone, methylchloroisothiazolinone, toluene, octinoxate, benzalkonium chloride, oxybenzone and avobenzone

• Do a neighborhood litter pick up and send list of plastics you find to Break Free From Plastic brand audit https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/toolkits/brand-audit/

• 14. Sign the advocacy letters under actions at www.beyondplastics.org
More Legislative Actions

When the people lead, the leaders will follow. Toxins don’t know political boundaries. Don’t let fossil fuel industries ruin the planet. Write your federal legislators and tell them microplastics should be labelled as a toxic chemical and throw away plastics should be banned from being produced.

Enter the relevant information and learn who represents you in the legislature.

https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts

• Start a resolution or petition to support reducing plastic in your city to present to the city council. Refer to model resolution on www.mankatozerowaste.com

• If you live in Minnesota, email or call your state representative to support the state EPR bill HF 4132 authored by Sydney Jordan to hold producers responsible for reducing plastic packaging in their products, redesigning the packaging to be sustainable and banning toxic chemicals from products.


• Sign the petition President Biden: Be a #PlasticFreePresident
  https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/president-biden-be-a-plasticfreepresident

• Send a letter or call your U.S. house representative to support:
  **H.R. 8183** Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2022 that requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a pilot grant program for improving recycling accessibility in communities. The EPA may award grants to states, local governments, Indian tribes, or public-private partnerships.
  **H.R. 8059** Recycling and Composting Accountability Act that establishes data collection and reporting requirements concerning recycling and composting programs. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency must report on the capability of the United States to implement a national composting strategy for compostable materials in order to reduce contamination rates for recycling. These 2 bills are being introduced to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.
• Send a letter or call your U.S. House and Senate legislators in support of the bill to ban non-essential use of PFAS forever chemicals introduced by Representative Jeff Brand and Senator Kelly Morrison.

• Send a letter or call your U.S. Senator in support of S.3743 Recycling and Composting Accountability Act that would designate funding to improve our nation’s recycling and composting systems. And S.3742 Accessibility Act which would establish a pilot program to promote recycling in underserved communities.

• Sign a letter telling the President to stop the pipeline #3 https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/line3bidenemail/index.html
July 24, 2022

Mr. Randall B. Edeker, Chairman, president and CEO
Hy-Vee
1700 Valley West Drive
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Dear Mr. Randall Edeker:

Most consumers want to avoid single-use plastic packaging. However, one cannot shop at Hy-Vee without acquiring a large amount of plastic packaging in the process. According to a recent poll by the international non-profit Oceana, the vast majority of American voters (86%) are concerned about single-use plastics, and 81% of them support enacting policies at the federal, state and local levels to reduce plastic.

We write today to urge you to commit to shifting Hy-Vee away from single-use plastic packaging to a system of bulk products, reusables, and, where necessary, products packaged in single-use containers made from glass, metal or paper, all of which can be recycled successfully for multiple reuses. Switch from plastic bags to reusable or backyard compostable Crown Poly bags M_nahin@crownpoly.com

Plastics recycling is largely a myth. According to the nonprofit organizations, Beyond Plastics and The Last Beach Clean up, the recycling rate for plastics here in the United States was just 5-6% in 2021 - a figure that was then confirmed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

It’s important to note that even the small amount of plastic that is counted as “recycled” may not be recycled as exports overseas are marked as recycled without any proof that it has occurred. Furthermore, plastics are not “recycled”, a process in which a material is turned back into a product of equal value many times. Plastics are only “downcycled” - usually turned into fibers for carpet or fleece - and are only reused once or twice more, at most before ending up in a landfill, incinerator or ocean.

It’s important to understand that the so-called “advanced recycling” and “chemical recycling” processes that are being promoted by the plastics, chemical and packaging industries do not recycle plastic; they simply turn plastic into low-grade fuel to be burned, further harming our health and accelerating climate change. “Chemical recycling” is not a solution to our plastic pollution crisis.

Plastics break down into smaller and smaller pieces which then work their way into our air, water, soil and the bodies of fish, wildlife and all of us humans. A recent study by Australia’s University of New Castle found that we’re all consuming roughly a credit card’s worth of plastic each WEEK. That’s a serious problem because plastics can be endocrine disruptors and early studies have shown that they increase our risk of obesity, cancer, infertility, diabetes, and developmental disorders, at a minimum.

Between nine and 15 million metric tons of plastic enter our ocean each year. Scientists predict that there will be one pound of plastic in the ocean for every three pounds of fish by 2025 and more plastic trash in the ocean than fish by 2050.

In the meantime, seabirds are dying at alarming rates with bellies full of plastic, dead whales are washing up on beaches with stomachs full of plastic on a regular basis in countries around the world, and if you haven’t watched the deeply painful video of the poor sea turtle with the plastic straw lodged in its nose, you should spend three minutes doing so.
Plastic packaging is also a significant contributor to climate change. Plastics are made from chemicals and fossil fuels. Their creation both relies on and perpetuates the extraction of oil and gas which is the primary cause of our climate crisis and which we must end in short order if we hope to continue to enjoy life on this planet. Plastics in the U.S. are on track to contribute more greenhouse emissions than coal plants by 2030. You can find more details about the relationship between plastics and climate change in the 2021 report by Beyond Plastics titled *Plastic Is the New Coal*.

Plastic is also an environmental justice issue. Plastic manufacturing facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color, as are both landfills and incinerators. All of these facilities threaten the health of residents and diminish their quality of life.

There is evidence that some of the chemicals used in plastic packaging (for food, especially) are toxic to humans. One of these chemicals is PFAS which is often used in food packaging. There are thousands of chemicals used in plastic packaging, some of which like BPA and PFAS, we already know are toxic, but there are thousands more chemicals about whose safety we know nothing.

Studies have shown that bottled water contains significantly more microplastic particles than tap water does. Although the impact of microplastics contamination on human bodies is not yet well-studied, it seems very likely that these products are harmful to your customers’ health. This is not a risk that we believe you should continue to expose your customers to.

For all of these reasons, we believe that doing business as usual is no longer acceptable.

As a leading retailer, you have a responsibility to STOP carrying products packaged in single-use plastic. Alternatives exist. You just need to embrace them.

**We call on Hy-Vee to reduce its single-use plastic by:**

1. Switching to bulk bins and dispensers for dry goods, produce, cleaning and self-care products.
2. Reviewing your inventory and switching to products that are sold in cans, glass, cardboard and paper in cases where you must continue to sell single-use packaged products.
3. Installing purified water refilling stations for customers.
4. Ceasing the sale of bottled water and other drinks bottled in plastic immediately, and replacing them with beverages sold in glass bottles and cans only.
5. Reducing the use of plastic bags at check-out counters by making them available for a fee and urging your customers to bring their own bags. The ALDI supermarket chain has used this approach for decades with proven success, largely as a cost-saving measure.

We urge you to set clear targets and timelines for this process and to make them public and provide regular, annual updates on your progress.

In the meantime, our environmental conscience and concerns about plastic’s toxicity for our health are forcing us to forgo buying many items in your store. We hope you will make the changes we have outlined above soon to enable us to begin doing more of our shopping at your store.

Thanks for taking the time to consider our requests. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
July 24, 2022

Mr. Mike Stigers, CEO of Cub Foods
Cub Foods
421 3rd Street South
Stillwater, Mn 55082

Dear Mr. Mike Stigers:

Most consumers want to avoid single-use plastic packaging. However, one cannot shop at Cub Foods without acquiring a large amount of plastic packaging in the process. According to a recent poll by the international non-profit Oceana, the vast majority of American voters (86%) are concerned about single-use plastics, and 81% of them support enacting policies at the federal, state and local levels to reduce plastic.

We write today to urge you to commit to shifting Cub Foods away from single-use plastic packaging to a system of bulk products, reusables, and, where necessary, products packaged in single-use containers made from glass, metal or paper, all of which can be recycled successfully for multiple reuses. Switch from plastic bags to reusable or backyard compostable Crown Poly bags M_nahin@crownpoly.com

Plastics recycling is largely a myth. According to the nonprofit organizations, Beyond Plastics and The Last Beach Clean up, the recycling rate for plastics here in the United States was just 5-6% in 2021 - a figure that was then confirmed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

It’s important to note that even the small amount of plastic that is counted as “recycled” may not be recycled as exports overseas are marked as recycled without any proof that it has occurred. Furthermore, plastics are not “recycled”, a process in which a material is turned back into a product of equal value many times. Plastics are only “downcycled” - usually turned into fibers for carpet or fleece - and are only reused once or twice more, at most before ending up in a landfill, incinerator or ocean.

It’s important to understand that the so-called “advanced recycling” and “chemical recycling” processes that are being promoted by the plastics, chemical and packaging industries do not recycle plastic; they simply turn plastic into low-grade fuel to be burned, further harming our health and accelerating climate change. “Chemical recycling” is not a solution to our plastic pollution crisis.

Plastics break down into smaller and smaller pieces which then work their way into our air, water, soil and the bodies of fish, wildlife and all of us humans. A recent study by Australia’s University of New Castle found that we’re all consuming roughly a credit card’s worth of plastic each WEEK. That’s a serious problem because plastics can be endocrine disruptors and early studies have shown that they increase our risk of obesity, cancer, infertility, diabetes, and developmental disorders, at a minimum.

Between nine and 15 million metric tons of plastic enter our ocean each year. Scientists predict that there will be one pound of plastic in the ocean for every three pounds of fish by 2025 and more plastic trash in the ocean than fish by 2050.

In the meantime, seabirds are dying at alarming rates with bellies full of plastic, dead whales are washing up on beaches with stomachs full of plastic on a regular basis in countries around the world, and if you haven’t watched the deeply painful video of the poor sea turtle with the plastic straw lodged in its nose, you should spend three minutes doing so.
Plastic packaging is also a significant contributor to climate change. Plastics are made from chemicals and fossil fuels. Their creation both relies on and perpetuates the extraction of oil and gas which is the primary cause of our climate crisis and which we must end in short order if we hope to continue to enjoy life on this planet. Plastics in the U.S. are on track to contribute more greenhouse emissions than coal plants by 2030. You can find more details about the relationship between plastics and climate change in the 2021 report by Beyond Plastics titled *Plastic Is the New Coal*.

**Plastic is also an environmental justice issue.** Plastic manufacturing facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color, as are both landfills and incinerators. All of these facilities threaten the health of residents and diminish their quality of life.

There is evidence that **some of the chemicals used in plastic packaging (for food, especially) are toxic to humans.** One of these chemicals is PFAS which is often used in food packaging. There are thousands of chemicals used in plastic packaging, some of which like BPA and PFAS, we already know are toxic, but there are thousands more chemicals about whose safety we know nothing.

Studies have shown that **bottled water contains significantly more microplastic particles than tap water does.** Although the impact of microplastics contamination on human bodies is not yet well-studied, it seems very likely that **these products are harmful to your customers’ health.** This is not a risk that we believe you should continue to expose your customers to.

For all of these reasons, we believe that doing **business as usual is no longer acceptable.**

As a leading retailer, you have a responsibility to STOP carrying products packaged in single-use plastic. Alternatives exist. You just need to embrace them.

**We call on Cub Foods to reduce its single-use plastic by:**

1. Switching to bulk bins and dispensers for dry goods, produce, cleaning and self-care products.
2. Reviewing your inventory and switching to products that are sold in cans, glass, cardboard and paper in cases where you must continue to sell single-use packaged products.
3. Installing purified water refilling stations for customers.
4. Ceasing the sale of bottled water and other drinks bottled in plastic immediately, and replacing them with beverages sold in glass bottles and cans only.
5. Reducing the use of plastic bags by making them available for a fee and encouraging people to bring their own reusable bags. The ALDI supermarket chain has used this approach for decades with proven success, largely as a cost-saving measure.

**We urge you to set clear targets and timelines for this process and to make them public and provide regular, annual updates on your progress.**

In the meantime, our environmental conscience and concerns about plastic’s toxicity for our health are forcing us to forgo buying many items in your store. We hope you will make the changes we have outlined above soon to enable us to begin doing more of our shopping at your store.

Thanks for taking the time to consider our requests. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Dear Mr. Brian Cornell:

Most consumers want to avoid single-use plastic packaging. However, one cannot shop at Target without acquiring a large amount of plastic packaging in the process. According to a recent poll by the international non-profit Oceana, the vast majority of American voters (86%) are concerned about single-use plastics, and 81% of them support enacting policies at the federal, state and local levels to reduce plastic.

We write today to urge you to commit to shifting Target away from single-use plastic packaging to a system of bulk products, reusables, and, where necessary, products packaged in single-use containers made from glass, metal or paper, all of which can be recycled successfully for multiple reuses. Switch from plastic bags to reusable or backyard compostable Crown Poly bags M_nahin@crownpoly.com

Plastics recycling is largely a myth. According to the nonprofit organizations, Beyond Plastics and The Last Beach Clean up, the recycling rate for plastics here in the United States was just 5-6% in 2021 - a figure that was then confirmed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

It’s important to note that even the small amount of plastic that is counted as “recycled” may not be recycled as exports overseas are marked as recycled without any proof that it has occurred. Furthermore, plastics are not “recycled”, a process in which a material is turned back into a product of equal value many times. Plastics are only “downcycled” - usually turned into fibers for carpet or fleece - and are only reused once or twice more, at most before ending up in a landfill, incinerator or ocean.

It’s important to understand that the so-called “advanced recycling” and “chemical recycling” processes that are being promoted by the plastics, chemical and packaging industries do not recycle plastic; they simply turn plastic into low-grade fuel to be burned, further harming our health and accelerating climate change. “Chemical recycling” is not a solution to our plastic pollution crisis.

Plastics break down into smaller and smaller pieces which then work their way into our air, water, soil and the bodies of fish, wildlife and all of us humans. A recent study by Australia’s University of New Castle found that we’re all consuming roughly a credit card’s worth of plastic each WEEK. That’s a serious problem because plastics can be endocrine disruptors and early studies have shown that they increase our risk of obesity, cancer, infertility, diabetes, and developmental disorders, at a minimum.

Between nine and 15 million metric tons of plastic enter our ocean each year. Scientists predict that there will be one pound of plastic in the ocean for every three pounds of fish by 2025 and more plastic trash in the ocean than fish by 2050.

In the meantime, seabirds are dying at alarming rates with bellies full of plastic, dead whales are washing up on beaches with stomachs full of plastic on a regular basis in countries around the world, and if you haven’t watched the deeply painful video of the poor sea turtle with the plastic straw lodged in its nose, you should spend three minutes doing so.
Plastic packaging is also a significant contributor to climate change. Plastics are made from chemicals and fossil fuels. Their creation both relies on and perpetuates the extraction of oil and gas which is the primary cause of our climate crisis and which we must end in short order if we hope to continue to enjoy life on this planet. Plastics in the U.S. are on track to contribute more greenhouse emissions than coal plants by 2030. You can find more details about the relationship between plastics and climate change in the 2021 report by Beyond Plastics titled *Plastic Is the New Coal*.

Plastic is also an environmental justice issue. Plastic manufacturing facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color, as are both landfills and incinerators. All of these facilities threaten the health of residents and diminish their quality of life.

There is evidence that some of the chemicals used in plastic packaging (for food, especially) are toxic to humans. One of these chemicals is PFAS which is often used in food packaging. There are thousands of chemicals used in plastic packaging, some of which like BPA and PFAS, we already know are toxic, but there are thousands more chemicals about whose safety we know nothing.

Studies have shown that bottled water contains significantly more microplastic particles than tap water does. Although the impact of microplastics contamination on human bodies is not yet well-studied, it seems very likely that these products are harmful to your customers’ health. This is not a risk that we believe you should continue to expose your customers to.

For all of these reasons, we believe that doing business as usual is no longer acceptable.

As a leading retailer, you have a responsibility to STOP carrying products packaged in single-use plastic. Alternatives exist. You just need to embrace them.

We call on Target to reduce its single-use plastic by:

1. Switching to bulk bins and dispensers for dry goods, produce, cleaning and self-care products.
2. Reviewing your inventory and switching to products that are sold in cans, glass, cardboard and paper in cases where you must continue to sell single-use packaged products.
3. Installing purified water refilling stations for customers.
4. Ceasing the sale of bottled water and other drinks bottled in plastic immediately, and replacing them with beverages sold in glass bottles and cans only.
5. Stopping the use of plastic bags at check-out counters by making them available for a fee and urging your customers to bring their own bags. The ALDI supermarket chain has used this approach for decades with proven success, largely as a cost-saving measure.

We urge you to set clear targets and timelines for this process and to make them public and provide regular, annual updates on your progress.

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Thanks for taking the time to consider our requests. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
July 24, 2022

Mr. Doug McMillon, President and CEO Wal-Mart Stores Inc
Walmart
702 Southwest 8th Street
Bentonville, Arkansas 72716

Dear Mr. Doug McMillon:

Most consumers want to avoid single-use plastic packaging. However, one cannot shop at Walmart without acquiring a large amount of plastic packaging in the process. According to a recent poll by the international non-profit Oceana, the vast majority of American voters (86%) are concerned about single-use plastics, and 81% of them support enacting policies at the federal, state and local levels to reduce plastic.

We write today to urge you to commit to shifting Walmart away from single-use plastic packaging to a system of bulk products, reusables, and, where necessary, products packaged in single-use containers made from glass, metal or paper, all of which can be recycled successfully for multiple reuses. Switch from plastic bags to reusable or backyard compostable Crown Poly bags  M_nahin@crownpoly.com

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Plastic packaging is also a significant contributor to climate change. Plastics are made from chemicals and fossil fuels. Their creation both relies on and perpetuates the extraction of oil and gas which is the primary cause of our climate crisis and which we must end in short order if we hope to continue to enjoy life on this planet. Plastics in the U.S. are on track to contribute more greenhouse emissions than coal plants by 2030. You can find more details about the relationship between plastics and climate change in the 2021 report by Beyond Plastics titled Plastic Is the New Coal.

Plastic is also an environmental justice issue. Plastic manufacturing facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color, as are both landfills and incinerators. All of these facilities threaten the health of residents and diminish their quality of life.

There is evidence that some of the chemicals used in plastic packaging (for food, especially) are toxic to humans. One of these chemicals is PFAS which is often used in food packaging. There are thousands of chemicals used in plastic packaging, some of which like BPA and PFAS, we already know are toxic, but there are thousands more chemicals about whose safety we know nothing.

Studies have shown that bottled water contains significantly more microplastic particles than tap water does. Although the impact of microplastics contamination on human bodies is not yet well-studied, it seems very likely that these products are harmful to your customers’ health. This is not a risk that we believe you should continue to expose your customers to.

For all of these reasons, we believe that doing business as usual is no longer acceptable.

As a leading retailer, you have a responsibility to STOP carrying products packaged in single-use plastic. Alternatives exist. You just need to embrace them.

We call on Walmart to reduce its single-use plastic by:

1. Switching to bulk bins and dispensers for dry goods, produce, cleaning and self-care products.
2. Reviewing your inventory and switching to products that are sold in cans, glass, cardboard and paper in cases where you must continue to sell single-use packaged products.
3. Installing purified water refilling stations for customers.
4. Ceasing the sale of bottled water and other drinks bottled in plastic immediately, and replacing them with beverages sold in glass bottles and cans only.
5. Reducing the use of plastic bags at check-out counters by making them available for a fee and urging your customers to bring their own bags. The ALDI supermarket chain has used this approach for decades with proven success, largely as a cost-saving measure.

We urge you to set clear targets and timelines for this process and to make them public and provide regular, annual updates on your progress.

In the meantime, our environmental conscience and concerns about plastic’s toxicity for our health are forcing us to forgo buying many items in your store. We hope you will make the changes we have outlined above soon to enable us to begin doing more of our shopping at your store.

Thanks for taking the time to consider our requests. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
More Links from Microplastics Discussion, Feb. 9, 2023

U of M Report on Micorplastics in the Boundary Waters:
https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/225364

Effects of Microplastics on Marginalized Communities:
https://www.earthday.org/the-people-behind-the-plastic-how-plastic-production-affects-marginalized-communities/

Shells Ethane Cracking:

Biosolids:
Basic Information about Biosolids | US EPA

Nurdles:
What are Nurdles - Why You Need to Worry About Them | Ocean Blue (oceanblueproject.org)

Atmospheric Deposition (maryland.gov)
Microplastics: A Growing Problem in the Great Lakes

Art Hirsch
Climate Reality Project
West Michigan Chapter

Detroit News
Indigenous Tribal Acknowledgement
Microplastics Presentation

• Overview of the microplastics problem in the Great Lakes
  • What are microplastics
  • Extent
  • Sources/pathways
  • Controls
  • Regulations

• What we can do to address microplastics

• Presentation Goal- is for you to become better aware, educated, concerned and to take action
A Common Theme

• It is a complex-complex issue
• It represents a real potential risk to the environment (human/aquatic)
• There are data gaps that need to be filled via research
Great Lakes Abuse

- Direct discharge of raw sewage
- Industrial discharges (heavy metals and petroleum)
- Freighter oil and ballast discharges
- Phosphorous from detergents/algae
- PCBs
- Invasive species
  - Alewife
  - Zooplankton
  - Zebra mussels
  - Quagga mussels
- Combined Sewer Overflows/E-coli
- Agricultural runoff-nutrients
- Potential Asian Carp introduction
- Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Plastics/microplastics
5 PLASTIC GYRES
## Most Common Plastics/Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plastic Polymer Name</th>
<th>Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acetal (Polyoxymethylene)</td>
<td>Screws, wheels, gears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acrylic (Polymethyl methacrylate)</td>
<td>Paint, fiber optics, aquariums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene</td>
<td>Car parts, legos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High density polyethylene (HDPE)</td>
<td>Milk jugs, trash bags, shampoo bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low density polyethylene (LDPE)</td>
<td>Shopping bags, bubble wrap, bottles food wrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nylon (Polyamide)</td>
<td>Air bags, clothing, thread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyester</td>
<td>Fibers, rope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polybutylene Terephthalate</td>
<td>Keyboards, switches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polycarbonate</td>
<td>Eyewear, helmets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyetheretherketone</td>
<td>Bearings, pumps, pistons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyethylene</td>
<td>Mulch, toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</td>
<td>Water bottles, fibers, food containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polylactive acid</td>
<td>Packaging, syringes, textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polypropylene (PP)</td>
<td>Medicine bottles, straws, packaging, car parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polystyrene (PS)</td>
<td>Cups, egg cartons, take out cartons, insulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Screws, wheels, gears
- Paint, fiber optics, aquariums
- Car parts, legos
- Milk jugs, trash bags, shampoo bottles
- Shopping bags, bubble wrap, bottles food wrap
- Air bags, clothing, thread
- Fibers, rope
- Keyboards, switches
- Eyewear, helmets
- Bearings, pumps, pistons
- Mulch, toys
- Water bottles, fibers, food containers
- Packaging, syringes, textiles
- Medicine bottles, straws, packaging, car parts
- Cups, egg cartons, take out cartons, insulation
If these trends continue, by 2050 we’ll have produced 26 billion metric tons of plastic waste. 231# /person/year USA; 33#/person/year World Average. 10% recycled, 12% incinerated, 60% landfilled, 15% to the environment.
Plastic Additives

Endocrine Disruptors

• Chemicals that are toxic to reproduction, which means that they may damage fertility or the unborn child.

• Bisphenol A (BPA) - used to coat the inside of water pipes and the inside of cans for food and drink.

• Phthalates - used as softeners for PVC plastic for flexibility; most used additive

• Alkyl Phenols - block chemicals that are also used in making fragrances, thermoplastic elastomers, antioxidants, oil field chemicals and fire retardant materials

• PFAS, Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) - flame retardants

Note: Fertility rates in the US has decreased 30% over the past 35 years (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York)
Environmental Justice Impacts

90% of plastic manufacturing ghg emissions occur in 18 counties in the USA

Houston/Baytown, Texas - 20.2 million tons (2020)
Freeport, Texas - 16.6 million tons
Norco/Taft, Louisiana - 10.3 million tons
Plastic Loading into Great Lakes

- 22,000,000 pounds of plastic into Great Lakes/year (yr)
- Lake Michigan - 11,000,000 (11M) pounds/yr
- Lake Erie - 5.5 M pounds/yr
- Lake Ontario - 3 M pounds/yr
- Lake Huron - 1.3 M pounds/yr
- Superior - 0.7M pounds/yr

- 80 percent of the litter found on beaches is plastic
- Chicago, Toronto, Cleveland, and Detroit are the worst contributors to plastic pollution in Great Lakes

*Rochester Institute of Technology 2021
What Are Microplastics?

- Plastics that are <5mm in size (3/16 in)
- Microplastics (Primary)
  - Produced/manufactured as products
  - Plastic pellets called nurdles
  - Microbeads in cosmetics/toothpaste
  - Industrial paint/rust removal (microbeads)
- Microplastics (Secondary)
  - Degraded from large pieces of plastic
  - UV sun, weathering, wave erosion and abrasion into micro sizes
  - Microfibers from synthetic clothes
- Nano Plastics (Primary & Secondary)
  - Plastic size equal to or less than 0.001mm (1um)
Dominate Microplastic Type

Great Lakes Open Water - 60% fragments

Great Lakes Tributaries - 72% microfibers

USGS and New York Fredonia
Sources - Tires

Tires
#1 Source California
Sources - Textiles

Microfibers from Washing Synthetic Clothes

Clothes Washer - 700,000 fibers/load

178,000 microbeads in one milliliter of detergent

Clothes dryers 433,128–561,810 microfibers/load
Sources-Single Use Packaging
Sources-Agriculture

Biosolids for fertilizer
Sources - Agriculture

Plastic Mulch
230#/acre
10,000 acres/yr

Encapsulated fertilizers, pesticides and seeds
Sources-Industrial Plastic Nurdle Plastic Production

- Pre-production plastics are the raw material used to make most plastic products.
- The pellets are manufactured by petrochemical companies and transported by train, ship, or truck to plastic facilities.
- Spillage from transport, storage and production handling.
- Absorb chemicals like DDT, PCBs, and mercury.
- Found in 70% beaches on all five Great Lakes.
Sources-Microbeads

Polyethylene or Polypropylene

178,000 microbeads in one milliliter of detergent

Industrial Cleaning Operations
Paint and Rust Removal
Pathways - Municipal - Industrial

Wastewater Treatment Systems  Industrial Discharges
Pathway-Stormwater

Stormwater Discharges- Major Microplastic Pathway in San Francisco Bay- 3X WTPs
Pathway-Agriculture Non Point Source
Pathway-CSO

Milwaukee 8/13/21 380M gallons released into Lake Michigan (6” rain)

Combined Stormwater Discharges (Stormwater and Sanitary)
Pathway- Beach Litter
1000 tons of microplastics, the equivalent of 300 million plastic bottles, settle on 11 western national parks and wilderness areas (approx. 100 million acres)

Concern Colorado- Absorption of light promote high melting rates in snow pack?
Environmental Impacts of Microplastics

• Potential Human Health Impacts
  • *5 grams/person/week
  • Placentas/infant meconium
  • Infant fecal concentrations>adult (bottles?)
  • Blood system
  • Found in lungs
  • Endocrine disruption
  • Damage to cells in laboratory tests

• Potential Ecological Impacts
  • Metals and toxics adsorb onto surfaces
  • Mistaken for food by fish
  • Starvation (fish and birds)
  • Cellular level impacts-lab experiments
  • Food chain (up to humans)

• More Research is Needed On Human and Ecological Impacts
Microplastic Controls

• Difficult to impossible to remediate once released
• Agriculture controls and alternative practices
• Industrial controls and best practices
• Improve stormwater management
• Stop human littering on beaches
• Improve wastewater treatment facilities
• Source control of plastics (stop single use)
Waste Treatment Microplastic Removals

- Primary Treatment: 57%
- Secondary Treatment: 16%
- Tertiary Treatment: 17%
- Untreated...

Waste Treatment Very Efficient in Microplastic Removal >90%
Flows are in million gallons per day

Environment International, Liu (2021)
Microfiber Upstream Controls

- Synthetic Material Substitution
  - Natural fibers (cotton/wood)
  - Biodegradable (kelp, proteins)
  - Graphene non shedding fabric
  - Patagonia research

- Washing Machine Filters
  - Grundig integrated filter system (90% removal)
  - PlanetCare Filter (90% removal)
  - Guppyfriend (54% removal)
  - Cora Balls (26% removal)

- Filter regulations being proposed in California
California Nurdle Law 2007
Precautionary Management

- California law indicates that nurdles can replace food in animals’ stomachs, leading to starvation.
- Potential toxic effects on humans and animals from additive compounds

California AB 258 ("nurdle law") was signed into law by Gov. Schwarzenegger on Oct. 14, 2007.

Only state nurdle law in the nation
Statewide Microplastic Strategy
California Senate Bill 1263 in 2018

Scientific Based Approach
Precautionary Approach

Identity early actions to reduce microplastics

1) Surface water monitoring
2) description of the sources, pathways, and impacts of microplastics
3) a risk assessment framework based on the best available science on exposure of microplastics to organisms
4) standardized methods for sampling, detecting, characterizing, and monitoring microplastics
5) policy recommendations and management actions
2021/2022-Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act To Address Pollution in Great Lakes (Senator Dick Durbin-(D) Illinois)

• Senate Bill 1507 (Plastic Free Waters Act)
• Environmental and Public Works Committee (April 29, 2021)
• Plastic considered a pollutant and associated with a point discharge
• EPA prohibit discharge of pellets (nurdles) into waterways
• Leverage off of Clean Water Act Permits
  • Stormwater
  • Wastewater
• Plastic transportation, storage and manufacturing facilities
What **The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act** Will Accomplish:

1. Strengthen Environmental Justice
2. Test Reuse & Refill Programs
3. Hold Companies Accountable For Products/Create Transparency $$$
4. Incentivize Good Design $=
5. Require Real Recycling
6. Reduce The Toxics
7. Reduce Pollution
8. Reduce Single-Use
9. Manage Our Own Waste

https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/

Senator Merkley

Rep Lowenthal
Big Picture Recommendations-Great Lakes

- Develop a Great Lakes Microplastic Strategy Plan
- Monitor the Great Lakes for microplastics
- Create consistent sampling and testing methods
- Promote communication between researchers and political leaders to promote management action
- Promote public knowledge and awareness
- Institute human/ecological risk assessment studies
- Develop source-plastic and pathway controls
So what can you and I do?

• Know the political candidates’ position
• Contact representatives to support/co-sponsor bills
• Promote plastic source control legislation (federal/state)
• Avoid using single use plastics (bottles/bags)
• Modify personal decisions to not buy certain plastics/synthetics
• Purchase microfiber filters on washing machines
• Evaluate synthetic versus natural fibers
• Use microplastic free laundry detergents
• Promote public outreach and education on plastics/microplastics
• Teach your kids about plastics/microplastics
• Recognize we cannot recycle our way out of this plastic problem
• Join or start an environmental campaign against microplastics
“Unless Someone Like You Cares A Whole Awful Lot Nothing Is Going To Get Better. Its Not”

Doctor Seuss (The Lorax)

Contact Me If You Want to Get Involved with Protecting the Great Lakes

Art Hirsch
Climate Reality Project- West Michigan Chapter
Ahirsch@Terralogicss.com
303-786-9111/231-869-3426
Articles, Books and Videos on the Plastics

Articles:
The new Coal: Plastics role in Climate Change study
https://www.beyondplastics.org/plastics-and-climate

The Duluth Campaign to put a fee on plastic bags
http://www.bagitduluth.org/

A comprehensive overview of the harm from plastics
https://only.one/pages/plastics-crisis

Ocean plastic pollution
https://plastoceans.org/the-facts/
https://plastics.oceana.org/?_ga=2.15180918.1524395739.1661302386-172237196.1661302386

75% of the people want a worldwide ban on single use plastics.

Chemical Pollution is now threatening earth’s life support systems.

Widespread chemical contamination of recycled plastic pellets globally (IPEN)
US Plastic Waste Export Data

IPEN is a non-profit, public interest organization doing excellent work on the health effects of plastic. Their accessible, factual reports are a good place to start for more information.
the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) , An Introduction to Plastics and Toxic Chemicals as well as Plastics, EDCs, and Health.

Microplastics in Human Fetus

How Microplastics travel globally
https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2021/04/atmospheric-travel-scientists-find-microplastic-everywhere

Chemical Additives in Plastics Cause Disease and Death
https://www.endocrine.org/topics/edc/plastics-edcs-and-health

Link between prenatal exposure to various endocrine-disrupting chemicals and the rising prevalence of a potentially cancer-causing liver disease in children.
https://scitechdaily.com/rates-of-childhood-liver-disease-are-rapidly-rising-scientists-may-have-discovered-why/
Phthalates and attributable mortality: A population-based longitudinal cohort study and cost analysis - Phthalate exposures were associated with all-cause and cardiovascular mortality with societal costs approximating $39 billion a year.

Chemical Additives Cause Brain Cell Damage
https://newatlas.com/science/bpa-chemicals-plasticizers-damage-brain-cells/?itm_source=newatlas&itm_medium=article-body

Multiple Human Health Risks from Plastic Chain of Production
https://earthworks.org/resources/plastic-health-the-hidden-costs-of-a-plastic-planet/
https://www.newswEEK.com/plastic-food-packaging-can-contain-hundreds-chemicals-that-cause-cancer-infertility-study-1713640

Microplastics in Beverages and Food

The Effects of Plastics on Plant Growth in Soil.

Plastic Recycling Doesn’t Work
https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/whopping-91-percent-plastic-isnt-recycled/

Polystyrene Fact Sheet: 8 reasons to ban Styrofoam
https://greendiningalliance.org/2015/10/8-reasons-to-ban-styrofoam/#:~:text=These%20are%20the%20reasons%20people,Washington%20D.C.%20have%20banned%20it.

Reasons to Ban Plastic Cutlery
https://www.forbes.com/sites/lauratenenbaum/2019/07/16/plastic-cutlery-is-terrible-for-the-environment-and-we-dont-need-to-have-it-delivered/?sh=7c93c1e34019

Car Tires are Big microplastic polluters
https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sustainable-living/tyres-and-microplastics-time-reinvent-wheel

Myths about reusable bags and covid

https://www.nrdc.org/resources/recycling-lies-chemical-recycling-plastic-just-greenwashing-incineration

Definitions of biobased, biodegradable and compostable
https://plasticsolutionsreview.com/bioplastics-clarification-page/
Alternatives to throwaway plastic:

https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/we-choose-reuse/

Tips on embracing reusables
https://www.beyondd plastics.org/actions/join-reuse-revolution


Books:

Videos:
Excellent webinar by Dr. Jenny Davies on the harmful health effects of plastics
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13_OwCGDFE&list=PLFSvnb8zc03D_5WySL4R1DnWI0LMcTVty&index=3

Plastics Impact on Human Health by Dr. Landrigan. Dr. Landrigan helps to demonstrate that plastics are not the safe, inert materials many take them and many of those chemicals are known toxins associated with cancers, and hormonal disruptions that increase the likeliness of early puberty, infertility, and obesity, as well as neurological issues like autism and ADHD. There are thousands more chemicals used in plastics about whose potential impacts we know little to nothing at this point because they have never been tested. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utUF4gqiyC

Judith Enck and guest research speakers on The Effects of Microplastics on Our Health
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLV8wKN1E&=t=230s

Plastic Wars, Season 2020, Episode 8
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/

Plastics Industry Insiders Reveal the Truth About Recycling | "Plastic Wars"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfrN-P2VCIk

How the Plastics Industry Used Recycling to Fend Off Bans | "Plastic Wars"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jUPahh7to

Video on plastic pollution by Oceana.org/plastics
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YomfSpBN8dY

https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/ppc-webinar-031622

Plastics: Earth Super Polluters hosted by Impacts of Plastics A-Z
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaEiBK2a2as

Host a Screening of the Story of Plastic
https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/films-and-documentaries/

The Story of Plastic Trailer
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37PDwW0c1so

The Global Plastic Treaty – What You Need to Know
https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/ppc-webinar-031622

Dr. Kara Lavender Law on Plastic Pollution in the Ocean
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KP04G1wJEqY

Plastics Recycling is a Lie. April 18, 2022

Older but so worth watching
Wasteminster: A Downing Street Disaster. May 17, 2021

Bill Nye and Coca-Cola Called Out For ‘Greenwashing’
Now This Earth reports April 23, 2022
Sustainable Products and Where to Buy Them

**Bags (must be BPI Certified)**

Biobag Compostable bags - Cub Foods and [https://biobagworld.com/](https://biobagworld.com/)

If You Care compostable bags - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

Matter compostable trash, tall kitchen freezer, ziplock bags and foodware, utensils, straws - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections) and Target and [https://makeitmatter.com/](https://makeitmatter.com/)

Unni compostable sandwich bags and trash bags - [https://www.unni.world/](https://www.unni.world/)

Wild Harvest compostable bags - Cub Foods

Repurpose bags - [https://repurpose.com/](https://repurpose.com/)

**Cleaning supplies**

Dropps Dishwasher Pods - [www.dropps.com](http://www.dropps.com)

If You Care dishwasher tablets - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

Nantucket Detergent Strips and Household cleaners - St. Peter Co-op and [https://nantucketspider.com/collections/household-cleansers](https://nantucketspider.com/collections/household-cleansers)

Swedish Dish Cloths - [https://www.dropps.com](https://www.dropps.com), St. Peter Co-op and mamap.life

**Kitchen**

Bees Wrap - [https://www.beeswrap.com](https://www.beeswrap.com) and St Peter Food Coop

Eco products food ware and utensils - [www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com)

Greenware compostable food ware - [https://greenpaperproducts.com/](https://greenpaperproducts.com/)

If You Care Compostable Baking Cups, Sandwich bags, parchment paper, wax paper - St. Peter Food Coop [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

If You Care Compostable household gloves - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

If You Care compostable pie and lasagna pans - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

If You Care compostable sponge cloths - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

Matter Compostable snack, food bags & wrap - Target & [www.marketmatter.com](http://www.marketmatter.com)

Matter compostable straws - Target and [https://makeitmatter.com/](https://makeitmatter.com/)
Repurpose compostable bags, paper products and food ware - HyVee and
https://repurpose.com/collections/all-compostable-products

Tree Free Napkins by Grove - https://www.grove.co
Unni compostable gloves - https://www.unni.world/
World Centric compostable food ware and utensils - www.worldcentric.com
World Centric compostable straws and cups - St.Peter Co-op and www.worldcentric.com

**Laundry**

Kind Laundry Sheets - https://www.kindlaundry.com
Mama laundry sheets - mamap.life
Tru Earth Laundry Sheets - https://www.tru.earth & St. Peter Food Coop
Wool Dryer Balls https://www.handylaundry.com and St. Peter Co-op

**Paper**

Caboo bamboo facial tissue, paper towels, baby wipes, toilet paper - https://cabooproducts.com/
NatureEZway Bamboo Bath Tissue, cleaning cloths, napkins, sponge, baby wipes, trash bags, compostable cling wrap, food ware, straws - https://naturezway.com/products/bamboo-bath-tissue
Repurpose paper products - https://repurpose.com/collections/all-compostable-products

**Personal Care**

Acure beauty and body products - https://acure.com/
Acure Shampoo Bar - https://acure.com/ and St. Peter Co-op
Attitude Deodorant - St. Peter Co-op and https://attitudeliving.com/
Attitude liquid soaps and gels, facial creams and shampoos - https://attitudeliving.com/
Attitude Lip balm - St. Peter Co-op and https://attitudeliving.com/
Bite Toothpaste Tabs - https://bitetoothpastebits.com
Blue Land Hand Soap - www.blueland.com
Georganics Mineral Toothpaste - [https://earthhero.com](https://earthhero.com)
Grove Hydrating Handsoap - [https://www.grove.co](https://www.grove.co)
Mama Hand bar Soap - mamap.life
Hibar deodorants - [https://hellohibar.com/](https://hellohibar.com/)
Hibar face wash - St. Peter Co-op and [https://hellohibar.com/](https://hellohibar.com/)
HiBAR Shampoo and Conditioner - [https://hellohibar.com/](https://hellohibar.com/) and St. Peter Co-op
Lush Toothy Tabs - [https://www.lushusa.com](https://www.lushusa.com)
Mama Compostable Dental Floss - Tare Market, Minneapolis, thetaremarket.com, mamap.life
Mama compostable toothbrushes and toothpaste - mamap.life
Mama Shampoo and conditioner bars - mamap.life
Mintly Toothpaste Tabs - [https://getmintly.com/](https://getmintly.com/)
Pacha Soap – St. Peter Co-op and [www.pachasoap.com](http://www.pachasoap.com)
Bamboo Brush - Tare Market, Minneapolis & thetaremarket.com
Patch Black Bamboo bandages - [https://www.walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com)
Preserve toothbrush - [https://www.preserve.eco](https://www.preserve.eco)
Sappo Hill Soap – St. Peter Co-op and [https://www.sappohill.com/](https://www.sappohill.com/)
The Humble Company Compostable cotton swabs - St. Peter Co-op and [https://us.thehumble.co/](https://us.thehumble.co/)
The Humble Company toothpaste tablets - St. Peter Co-op and [https://us.thehumble.co/](https://us.thehumble.co/)

**Refillable/Reusable**


Bowl Covers - [https://www.target.com](https://www.target.com).

Forever Ware reusable take out container system for restaurants - [https://foreverware.org/](https://foreverware.org/)

If You Care Reusable paper towels - [https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all](https://buyifyoucare.com/collections/all)

Kleen Kanteen - [https://www.kleankanteen.com](https://www.kleankanteen.com)

Refillable Dental Floss - Tare Market, Minneapolis & thetaremarket.com and mamaP.com

CHILDREN’S FOODWARE:
https://ahimsahome.com/
https://lifewithoutplastic.com/
https://www.bambuhome.com/
https://earthhero.com/products/stainless-steel-camping-plate
https://gimmethegoodstuff.org/
https://www.montessoriservices.com/
https://www.designlifekids.com/products/

OTHER
My Eco Pet Dog Poop Bags and dispenser - St. Peter Co-op and https://myecopet.com/
Unni compostable Pet poop bags - https://www.unni.world/
Nantucket natural organic oil bug and tick repellent -
https://nantucketspider.com/collections/household-cleansers

Other information:
The American BPI Certified and Cedar Grove labels and the European OK Compost and TUV labels are all acceptable for composting.

Silicone— (Like the Stasher bag) is a hybrid between a synthetic rubber and a synthetic plastic polymer. It’s a plastic with additives that come from fossil fuels. Like plastics, you should not microwave, wash in the dishwasher with other dishes or eat or drink from it.
Ten Requirements for Effective Packaging Reduction Policies

Your Checklist for an effective packaging policy that will REDUCE POLLUTION and HOLD POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE!

1. Establish Environmental Standards for Packaging
   Similar to fuel efficiency standards for cars and appliances, we need environmental standards for packaging: 50% reduction in packaging over ten years—achieved either through elimination or by switching to reuse/refill systems—and the rest must achieve a 70% recycling rate. Waste reduction comes before recycling in every waste hierarchy and will only be achieved if it is required. Plastics recycling is a failure and we cannot rely on recycling to solve our plastics problem.

2. Reduce Toxics in Packaging
   Packaging that contains toxic chemicals is harmful to human health and the environment and can make it unsafe to use recycled materials in future products. Known toxic chemicals and substances, such as PFAS, formaldehyde, mercury, and lead should be removed from packaging.

3. No False Recycling
   Whether it’s called “chemical recycling” or “advanced recycling”, the technologies all emit hazardous waste, are mostly waste-to-fuel, and are often placed in low-income communities and communities of color. The last thing we need is to create more fossil fuels or to waste taxpayer dollars and valuable time on false solutions. These technologies should not be considered recycling—the definitions in any policy must make that clear.

4. Include a Modernized Beverage Deposit Law, a.k.a Bottle Bill
   Bottle bills work—deposit return laws are the best example of EPR and the most effective way to handle beverage containers. Most beverage containers should be managed by a modernized deposit law that sets the minimum deposit at ten cents, promotes refillable containers, has minimum reuse and recycling targets, and makes it easy for people to return their containers. Ten states already have a Bottle Bill.

5. Provide Financial Relief to Taxpayers and Consumers
   Packaging companies should pay fees that are used to: reimburse municipalities and consumers for the cost of recycling packaging material; provide new funding for projects that reduce packaging waste and improve recycling; and fund state agencies for managing the program and enforcing the law. Companies should pay no fees for packaging used in reuse + refill systems.

6. Include Both Residential and Commercial Waste
   Commercial waste makes up between 40% and 60% of the waste stream. The policy should apply to packaging generated in all sectors.

7. Don’t Put the Packaging Industry in Charge
   We would not expect the tobacco industry to implement effective anti-smoking efforts—do not allow consumer brands to self-regulate through Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs). There needs to be binding performance targets set in statute, and strong accountability and oversight by state agencies, including the ability to completely disband poor-performing PROs.

8. Ensure Strong Oversight and Accountability
   A law is only as strong as its enforcement. Create a new Office of Inspector General specifically to enforce the program and make sure state agencies receive the funding necessary to implement and enforce the law.

9. Avoid Glaring Loopholes
   Make sure the bill language does not allow packaging producers to wiggle out of compliance. For instance, Section 42080(3)(A) of the California EPR law exempts “single-use material that presents unique challenges in complying.” This provision alone could make the California EPR law ineffective.

10. Seek Transparency and Inclusion in the Process
    Do not negotiate this complex and important policy behind closed doors. Hold public hearings and roundtables. Invite ordinary citizens into the process. Hear all sides and then decide what is best for the people and the environment.

January 2023
Minnesota Organizations that Support the Ten Requirements for Effective EPR for Packaging (to date)

CLEAN WATER ACTION

NORTHEAST METRO CLIMATE ACTION
TWIN CITIES, MN

BEYOND PLASTICS
GREATER MANKATO AREA

just zero

REPOWERED
Fair chances for people, planet, and technology.

BEYOND PLASTICS

SIERRA CLUB
NORTH STAR CHAPTER

Mary Kosuth
PhD Candidate
Environmental Chemistry
U. of Minnesota
Dear Senator Klobuchar,

I am writing to urge you to support 2 important pieces of legislation: The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (BFFPPA) S 984 and the COMPOST Act S 2388

The world faces an existential threat in the form of climate change. As we work together to take bold climate action, while simultaneously upholding environmental justice and protecting the health of people living in frontline and fence line communities, we must recognize that all these issues overlap at a single point: plastic.

More than 99% of plastic is made from fossil fuels, and plastic contributes to climate change at every step of its life cycle. The petrochemical industry and the pollution it creates disproportionately harm people of color and low-income communities. Every year, the United States alone burns or buries in landfill 32 million tons of plastic, impacting the health, wealth, and well-being of frontline and fence line communities. The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 (BFFPPA) S984, being re-introduced by Sen. Merkley and Rep. Lowenthal, builds on successful statewide laws across the country and outlines practical plastic reduction strategies to realize a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable future.

The COMPOST Act S 2388 would create new USDA grant and loan guarantee programs for composting infrastructure and facilities as well as farm, home and community-based projects. This bill also adds composting as a conservation practice for USDA conservation programs. Composting is one of the most environmentally friendly means of recycling organics. This bill offers a powerful opportunity to reach net zero emission goals and an important step to help the country shift to zero waste.

Please support and cosponsor this comprehensive legislation to help tackle the climate crisis and uphold environmental justice.

Sincerely your constituent,

Name and email address
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