



[#breakfreefromplastic](https://twitter.com/breakfreefromplastic)

Letter of Support for the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2021

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley and Representative Lowenthal,

The undersigned organizations strongly support the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act. This comprehensive bill shows a commitment to real solutions by reducing throwaway plastics and encouraging producer responsibility while putting a pause on the production of plastics and combating false solutions such as incineration or a solitary focus on recycling.

The plastic pollution crisis has grown so massive that our broken waste management systems are unable to handle it, with the U.S. ranked as the world's largest generator of plastic waste (Law et al., 2020). Recent studies show that the amount of plastic entering our oceans will triple in the next 20 years (Pew Charitable Trusts, 2020). Without reducing plastic waste or holding producers accountable, the burden falls on local governments and taxpayers. This legislation provides the opportunity to create a circular economy of reusable products rather than throwaway plastics made from fossil fuels.

Plastics generate greenhouse gases at every phase of their life cycle: fossil fuel extraction and transport, refining and manufacturing, usage, waste management, and unmanaged plastic that permeates our land, water, and air. In 2019, it's estimated that plastic production and incineration emitted 850 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent to 189 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants operating at full capacity, and this is a conservative estimate (CIEL et al., 2019). We cannot solve the climate crisis without bold legislation aimed to mitigate plastic pollution.

Plastic pollutes our air, water, and landscapes killing and injuring wildlife and harming human health. It breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, ending up as microplastics and microfibers in our water and air. These have been found in the most remote places on earth, from the Mariana Trench to the human placenta (Ragusa et al., 2020). The endocrine disrupting chemicals found in plastics harm our health and can cause cancer, diabetes, reproductive disorders, and neurological impairments in development (Flaws et al., 2020).



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With the plastic industry's plan to increase production of plastic by 40 percent over the next decade comes a serious threat not only to wildlife and the climate, but also to public health and safety. Pollution from the plastic industry exposes communities to chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, neurological damage, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems. Petrochemical facilities that turn fracked gas into plastic and incinerators that burn plastic are often located in communities of color and low-income communities that bear the brunt of their dangerous pollution. The plastic pollution crisis is also an environmental justice crisis.

This bill builds on a growing nationwide movement anchored in local battles to fight the plastic pollution crisis. It will effectively reduce waste by phasing out certain plastic products, placing additional responsibility on manufacturers for waste management, addressing microplastics and microfibers as sources of pollution, restricting the export of plastic waste, and pausing new plastic production. It will also ensure language justice accessibility by requiring agency notices, decisions, and any engagement to be professionally interpreted and translated for multilingual communities. The United States must be a global leader in confronting the plastic pollution crisis, and the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act charts the way forward. Senator Merkley and Representative Lowenthal, we thank you for your critical leadership on this urgent issue.

Signed by the Following 416 Organizations in the United States

A Community Voice
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
ActiveSGV
Adventures in Waste
AFFEW (A Few Friends for the Environment of the World)
Algalita
Alice Ferguson Foundation
Allegheny County Council
Alliance for a Living Ocean
Alliance of River Three
Altamaha Riverkeeper
AltaPasa Green Circle
American Indian Movement of Central Texas
American Sustainable Business Council
AmPark Eco Core
Anacostia Riverkeeper
Applied Ocean Sciences
Arizona PIRG
Artist
Artists for a plastic free world
ASLF
Athens County's Future Action Network, aka
Athens County Fracking Action Network
Azul
B.E.A.C.H.
bambu
Ban SUP
Barrel Bag
Be the Solution to Pollution
Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign
Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.)
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)



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Becoming Beloved Community of Practice
Bedford 2030
Beyond Plastics
Big Blue & You
Black and Berry Living
Black Hills Sustainable Living
Black Rock Refill
Blue Ocean Warriors
Blue Verve Project
Boochcraft
Bozeman Farmers Market
Bozeman Women's Activity Group
BRINGiT
Bucks County Audubon Society
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Bureo
Businesses for a Livable Climate
By the Brook Productions
BYBB (Bring Your Bag Bloomington)
C.A.R.E.
Cafeteria Culture
California Institute of Environmental Design & Management (CIEDM)
Californians Against Waste
Call to Action Colorado
CalPIRG
Captain Planet Foundation
Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
CART
CatholicNetwork.US
CCSU sustainability club
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coalfield Justice
Champlain College
Citizen of USA
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment
Citizens Climate Lobby
Clean Air Council
Clean Coast
Clean Fairfax
Clean Ocean Action
Clean Up - Give Back .Org

CleanEarth4Kids.org
Clear Blue Sea
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Reality New Orleans
Climate Reality Project - Lehigh Valley PA
Climate Reality Project, Citizen's Climate Lobby
Climate Reality: Pittsburgh & Southwestern PA Chapter
Climate Team of Cincinnati Indivisible Rapid Response Team
Coalition Against Death Alley
Collective Arts Network
Colorado Businesses for a Liveable Climate
Colorado State University
Communities for Sustainable Monterey County
Concerned Ohio River Residents
CONNPIRG
CoPIRG
Corazon Latino
Courage California
CROW
Dater Montessori Nature Center
DDSao
DeliverZero
Do Good Soaps and Suds
Earth Ethics, Inc.
EarthEcho International
Earthjustice
Earthworks
ECHO System
Eco Maniac Company
Eldorado Lavender Farm
Elected Officials to Protect America
Emory University
Endangered Habitats League
Environment America
Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI)
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Connecticut
Environment Florida
Environment Georgia



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Environment Maine
Environment Maryland
Environment Massachusetts
Environment Minnesota
Environment Missouri
Environment Nevada
Environment New Jersey
Environment North Carolina
Environment Oregon
Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Environment Washington
Everblue
Extinction Rebellion Kentucky
Fashion Revolution USA
Fenceline Watch
Fisco Marine, LLC
Florida PIRG Students
FoCotrashmob@gmail.com
Footprint Foundation
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Forest Keeper
FracTracker Alliance
Franciscan Action Network
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of Midway Atoll
Friends of the Earth
GAIA
Glenmary Home Missioners
Glynn Environmental Coalition
Go Plastic Free
Good Neighbor Steering Committee
Grassroots Institute
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition
Greater Prince William Climate Action Network
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Living Science
Green Ossining
Green Road Refill
Green Schools Alliance
Greenfield Neighbors for Clean Air
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Grey Nun Associate
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
GRODreamville
Gwinnett Recycles
Hands Across the Sand
Hannah4Change
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
Healthy Gulf
Healthy Ocean Coalition
Heebs Fresh Market
Heirs To Our Oceans
High Art Fridays
Hispanic Access Foundation
Home ReSource
Hubs and Routes
Humanist Society
IEBG
IllinoisPIRG
Indivisible Bainbridge Island
Inland Ocean Coalition
Inside Southwest Detroit, Michigan
Environmental Justice Coalition, University of Michigan
Interfaith Earthkeepers
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth
Island Institute
Invest-With-Purpose
iPowerUp
It's Easy Being Green
J. Bar - Juice BAR
Jackson County Sustainability Council
Joshua tree records
Just Salad LLC
Justice & Beyond
Kauai Women's Caucus
Kearsarge Climate Action
Keep Buckroe Beach Clean
Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful
Kent Island Beach Cleanups (KIBCU)
Kentucky Heirs To Our Oceans



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Kittery Climate Action Now, Sierra Club sponsored
Knox County Dems
Kokua Hawaii Foundation
Kuala Langat Environment Association
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
League of Conservation Voters
League of Revolutionaries for a New America LFC
Lonely Whale
Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz
Lost Art of Love Letters
Louisiana Bucket Brigade
Louisiana League of Conscious Voters
Love This Land
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association
Lynnhaven River NOW
Madhvi4EcoEthics
Maine Conservation Alliance
Marine Conservation Institute
Markmade Products (UpHold brand)
Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit
Maryland Ornithological Society
Maryland PIRG
Maryland WISE
MASSPIRG
Mateza Gallery LLC
Mendocino Coast Jewish Community Justice group
Missouri River Bird Observatory
MOM's Organic Market
Montana Land Buyers
Mountain Watershed Association
Ms
Muuse.io
Nakworks
National Audubon Society
Natural Evolution, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
Naturepedic Organic Mattresses & Bedding
NEC Solar
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch

New England Aquarium
New Mexico Recycling Coalition
NM Environmental News
NoPetroPA.com
North Kitsap Indivisible
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northern KY Justice and Peace Committee
Norwalk Community College
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Crest Alliance
Ocean Grants
Ocean Heroes Network
Ocean Protection Coalition
Oceana
Oceanic Global
Oceanic Preservation Society
OCTO
Ohio RiverGuardians
Ohio RiverGuardians, NKY Chapter
Only One
OPC Ocean protection coalition
Orange County Coastkeeper
Oregon Community Organizers
Organizing for Plastics Alternatives
OSPIRG
Our Revolution Falls Church
Pacha
Pachamama Alliance for the Cincinnati Area (PACA)
Pacific Whale Foundation
Pale Blue Dot Media
Paul Ecke Green Team
peaceful United resistance
PennEnvironment
PennPIRG
People and Pollinator Action Network
People Over Petro Coalition
Physicians for Social Responsibility PA
Pipeline Safety Coalition
Pirani Life
Plaine Products



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PLAN: The Post Landfill Action Network
Plastic Footprint Project
Plastic Free Delaware
Plastic Free Emory
Plastic Free Future
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Plastic Tides
PlasticFreeRestaurants.org
PlasticScore, Inc
Ponca Nation
Poor People's Campaign
Precious Plastic at ASU
Presidio Graduate School
Product Stewardship Institute
Progressive Keizer
Pueblo of Zuni Environmental Protection Program
Putting Down Roots
Quad Cities Earth Coalition
RapidShift Network
Raven's Ridge
Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds
Regenerative Solutions
Resourceful Santa Fe
Reusable Solutions
Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC)
Rise Saint James
River Valley Organizing
Riverdale Presbyterian Fellowship
Riverkeeper, Inc.
Rose and Elm
Safer States
Saint Anne Episcopal Church
Sakina's Garden
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
Savannah Science Museum, Inc.
Save California Salmon
Save the Albatross Coalition
Save The Great South Bay
Sea Change LLC
Sea Hugger
Seattle Aquarium

Semester at Sea, Institute for Shipboard Education
Shark Stewards
SHARKastics
Sierra Club
Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods
Sisters of St. Joseph Brentwood NY
Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA
Sixth Street Community Center
Society of Native Nations
Southern Maine Planetears
Spiral Pacific, Inc
Spottswode Winery, Inc.
St Andrews Earth Care Team
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
St.Vincent's Academy
Stop 5G Mendocino
Story of Stuff Project
Sullebarger Associates, Historic Preservation Consulting
Sunrise Movement, New Orleans Hub
Surface 71, Inc.
Surfrider DC
Surfrider Foundation
Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Chapter
Susie King Taylor Women's Institute & Ecology Center
Sustainable Bainbridge
Sustainable Roanoke
Sustainable Wimberley
TDK
Texas Campaign for the Environment
TexPIRG
The Azulita Project
The Bay Foundation
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE)
The Climate Reality Project
The Last Beach Cleanup
The Last Plastic Straw
The Ocean Project | World Ocean Day



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The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
The Repurpose Project
The Ride Guides
The Shame Free Zone
The Story of Stuff Project
The Watershed Project
THIS! Is What We Did
Thrive_At_Life: Working Solutions
Tikkun Farm
titlemama
Titties for change
Toward Zero Waste
ToxyFree
Tremont Farmer's Market
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Two Drunk Monkeys, Inc.
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
UH Hilo
University of St. Francis
UPSTREAM
Urban Farming Institute
Usa
Used to be the Edmonds Institute
VA Tech
Valley of the Flowers Project
Vegan Outreach
Vessel
Village Bakery & Cafe
Virginia Conservation Network
Viroqua Plastic Free
Washington Rowing School
Waste Reduction Resources.com

Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Watershed Connections, LLC
Wellness in the Schools
Wellstart
Western Sustainability Exchange
WildEarth Guardians
Wisconsin Environment
WISE
Woman's City Club
Wonderfil
WRAD (Waste Reduction and Diversion)
WY Chapter of the Inland Ocean Coalition
Xavier University
YorkReadyfor100%
Youth.ify
Zero Waste Big Island
Zero Waste Company
Zero Waste Company
Zero Waste NYC Workshop
Zero Waste O'ahu
Zero Waste People Power
Zero Waste San Diego
Zero Waste Washington
2 Wonder Full To Be Ltd
350 Brooklyn
350 Eugene
350 New Orleans
350 Salem OR
350 Seattle
350 Fairfax
350 NYC
5 Gyres Institute