

Letter of Support for the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2020

U.S. Senator Tom Udall
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

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

Dear Senator Udall and Representative Lowenthal,

The undersigned organizations strongly support the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act as a comprehensive bill in Congress that adequately addresses the plastic pollution crisis. This bill shows a commitment to real solutions by reducing throwaway plastics and encouraging producer responsibility while combating false solutions such as incineration or a solitary focus on recycling.

The plastic pollution crisis has grown so massive that our waste management systems are unable to handle it. 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). It is clear we cannot solve the climate crisis without bold legislation aimed to mitigate plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution harms our environment and communities. Endangered wildlife eat and get caught in plastic pollution each year, suffering and dying as a result. Microplastics contaminate our air and drinking water and even the most remote places on Earth, from the Mariana Trench to the Arctic.

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 create 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, restricting the export of plastic waste, and pausing new plastic production. 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 Udall and Representative Lowenthal, we thank you for your critical leadership on this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

350 Butte County	Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee	Blue Frontier
350 Eastside	Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.	Blue Sphere Foundation
350 Eugene	Apalachicola Riverkeeper	Bluecology
350 Fairfax	Art Parts Creative Reuse Center	Boston Building Resources
350 Marin	Association of University Centers on Disabilities	Boston Clean Energy Coalition
350 New Orleans	ASU	Boulder Waterkeeper
350 Sacramento	Atchafalaya Basinkeeper	Break Free From Plastic
350 Santa Cruz	Audubon Naturalist Society	Breast Cancer Action
350 Silicon Valley	Ayer Recycling Committee	Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
350 Triangle	Aytzim: Ecological Judaism	Breathe Project
350 Wichita	Azul	Bridgewater Green Committee
350Brooklyn	Azulita	Brooklyn Bridge CSA
350 Kishwaukee	Backbone Campaign	Buckeye Environmental Network
5 Gyres	Bag Free Wichita	Bucks Environmental Action
7th Generation Advisors	BAN SUP	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Adventures in Waste	Battle Creek Alliance	BYO Madison
Albany Berkeley Plastic Reduction Working Group	Bay Area-System Change not Climate Change	Cafeteria Culture
Algalita Marine Research & Education	Bayou City Waterkeeper	Cahaba Riverkeeper
Alliance for a Green Economy	Beaver County (PA) Marcellus Awareness Community	California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Alliance for Democracy (US)	Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group	California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC)
Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards	Bergen SWAN	California for Progress
Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany	Berks Gas Truth	California Product Stewardship Council
Altamaha Riverkeeper	Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)	California Young Democrats Environmental Caucus
Alter Terra	Berkshire Zero-Waste Initiative	Californians Against Waste
American Bird Conservancy	Better Path Coalition	Californians for Western Wilderness
American Public Health Association	Better World Shopper	CALPIRG Students
American Sustainable Business Council	Beyond Plastics	Campaign for Renewable Energy
AmPark EcoCore	Big Reuse	Canton Residents for a Sustainable, Equitable Future
Anacostia Riverkeeper	Black Warrior Riverkeeper	

Cape Cod Anti-Litter Coalition Inc.	City of Winters	Conservation Law Foundation
Cape Fear River Watch	Clean Ocean Action	Container Recycling Institute
Carol L Lindsey, Consulting, LLC	Clean Water Action	Cook Inletkeeper
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation	Climate Action Group of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence	Coosa River Basin Initiative/Upper Coosa Riverkeeper
CEA	Climate Action Mondays	Creation Care Action & Advocacy from the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church
Center for Biological Diversity	Climate Crisis Policy	Cruzan Enterprises
Center for Coalfield Justice	Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG)	Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Center for Environmental Health	Climate Reality CWPA Chapter	Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter	Designs For A Better World
Center for Sustainability at Ramapo College of New Jersey	Climate Reality Project: Pittsburgh & Southwestern PA	Do Good Soaps and Suds
Center for Zero Waste Design	Coachella Valley Waterkeeper	Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Central California Asthma Collaborative	Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline NJ	Don't Waste Arizona
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm	Colorado Medical Waste	Earth Democracy Committee
CERBAT: Center for Environmentally Responsible Building Alternatives	Colorado Riverkeeper	Earth Ethics, Inc.
Chelmsford Sustainability Committee	Columbia Riverkeeper	Earth Island Institute
Cherokee County Solid Waste	Columbus Community Bill of Rights	Earthworks
Chico 350/ 350 Butte County	Common Ground Compost LLC	East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
ChicoBag / To-Go Ware	Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment	Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice	Community SPOTLIGHT	EcoAction Arlington
Christians For The Mountains	Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs	Ecological Rights Foundation
Church Women United in New York State	Concerned Health Professionals of New York	Ecology Center
Circle Pines Center	Concerned Ohio River Residents	Ecosystem Strategies
Citizen's Coalition for a Safe Community.	Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces	Elders Action Network
Citizens for Water	ConnPIRG Students	Elders Climate Action
Citizens Regeneration Lobby	Conscious Container	Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel MD
City of Greenbelt	Conservation Congress	End of Waste Foundation, Inc.
		Endangered Habitats League

Endangered Species Coalition	FreshWater Accountability Project	Hands Across the Sand / Land
ENGN Civic Creative Center	Friends Committee on Legislation of California	Hannah4Change
Environment America	Friends of Merrymeeting Bay	Haw River Assembly
Environment and Human Health, Inc.	Friends of the Earth US	Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
Environment California	Friends of the Kaw	Hawaii Public Health Association
Environment Maine	Friends of the Wild Swan	Heal the Bay
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin	Fund for Wild Nature	Health Promotion Consultants
Environmental Advocates of New York	Garrettsville Board of Public Affairs	Healthy Gulf (formerly Gulf Restoration Network)
Environmental Caucus of Florida	Gas Free Seneca	HealthyPlanet
Environmental Health Trust	Genesis Farm	Heartwood
Environmental Justice Center of Chestnut Hill United Church	Geos Institute	Heirs To Our Oceans
Environmental Protection Information Center	Gila Resources Information Project	Hesperian Health Guides
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board	Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives	Home ReSource
Environmental Youth Council of St Augustine	Good Neighbor Steering Committee	Honeydew Advisors
Equitable Health Solutions, LLC	Grassroots Environmental Education	Hull Family Foundation
Extinction Rebellion Kentucky	Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association	iEat Green, LLC
Fairmont MN Peace Group	Green America	Indivisible Georgia 04
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety (FACTS)	Green Party of Nassau County	Indivisible OC 48
Family Farm Defenders	Green Party of Seattle	Indivisible Pittsfield
Feminists in Action	Green Team, Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield	Inland Ocean Coalition
FinalStraw	Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice	Institute for Policy Studies
Florida Public Interest Research Group	Greenebank Consulting	Interfaith Climate Action Network of the Interfaith Council of CCC
FLOW (For Love of Water)	GreenLatinos	Interfaith Earthkeepers of Eugene/Springfield, OR
Frac Sand Sentinel: Project Outreach	Greenpeace USA	International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
FracTracker Alliance	Guernsey County Citizens Support on Drilling Issues	Island Seafoods, Inc.
Franciscan Action Network	Gunpowder Riverkeeper	Its Easy Being Green
		Jackpine Savage Guide Service
		JamPac (Jamesville Positive Action Committee)
		Jewish Climate Action Network MA

John G. Shedd Aquarium	National Stewardship Action Council	Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Just Salad		
Justice Action Mobilization Network	Natural Resources Council of Maine	Olympic Climate Action
Keep Massachusetts Beautiful	Nature Coast Conservation, Inc.	Orange County Coastkeeper
Klamath Forest Alliance	NC WARN	Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Labor Network for Sustainability	Neighbors of the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River	OSPIRG
League of Conservation Voters	Network of Spiritual Progressives	OVEC - Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Lee Greener Gateway Committee	New England Aquarium	Pasco Activists
Levanah Farm	New Jersey Highlands Coalition	PAUSE - People of Albany United for Safe Energy
LINKCO Inc	New Jersey Tenants Organization	PDA, AZ Chapter
Living Rivers	New Mexico Environmental Law Center	Peace Action New York State
Lonely Whale	New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light	Peconic Baykeeper
Louisiana Bucket Brigade	New Mexico Recycling Coalition	Pelican Media
ManaSota-88, Inc.	New York Climate Action Group	Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action
Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board	New York Heartwoods	People Over Pipelines
Marcellus Outreach Butler	New York Progressive Action Network - Enviro Committee	People's Climate Movement - Capital Region
Marin Sanitary Service	North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region USA	North Country 350 Alliance	Physicians for Social Responsibility PA
MaryPIRG	Northern Jaguar Project	Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
Mass Recycle	Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment	Pinelands Preservation Alliance
MendoRecycle	NY Buddhist Climate Action Network	Plastic Free Sharon
Mid-Missouri Peaceworks	NY4WHALES	Plastic Oceans International
Milwaukee Riverkeeper	NYC H2O	Plastic Pollution Coalition
Mission Blue / Sylvia Earle Alliance	Ocean Conservation Research	Portland Community College
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper	Oceana	Post-Landfill Action Network
MountainTrue	Oceanic Global	Presentation Sisters
Movement for a People's Party	Oceanic Preservation Society	Product Stewardship Institute
MSW Consultants, LLC	Ogeechee Riverkeeper	Progressive Democrats of America
NAACP Berkshire Branch		
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd		

Project Coyote	Save Our Shores	Spokane Riverkeeper
Protect PT (Penn-Trafford)	Save Our Sky Blue Waters	Spottswode Winery, Inc.
Public Citizen	Save The Hills Alliance, Inc.	Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science	Save The River Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper	Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance	Save Wolves Now Network	Story of Stuff Project
QEW	School Without Walls at Francis Stevens DCPS	Strategy Zero Waste Solutions
Quic Service Bike Shop	Sea Hugger	Suncoast Waterkeeper
Rachel Carson Council	Seaside Sustainability	Sunrise Movement Bay Area
Rachel's Network	Seattle Aquarium	Sunrise Movement Howard County
Raritan Headwaters	Seeding Sovereignty	Surfrider Foundation
RE Sources	Seneca Lake Guardian	Sustainable McDonough
Reach Out America	Sequoia ForestKeeper®	Sustainable Ocean Alliance at the University of Maryland
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association	Sierra Club	Sustainable Sharon Coalition
Recycle Across America	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Justice Team	Sustainable Sudbury
Resist the Pipeline	Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York	Sustainable Upton
Resource Renewal Institute	Sixth Street Community Center	Sustaining Way
RESTORE: The North Woods	Slow Food DC	Tar Sands Action Southern California
Reuse International	Snake Conservation Society	Tennessee Riverkeeper
Rio Grande International Study Center	Snake River Waterkeeper	Texas Campaign for the Environment
River Guardian Foundation	SoCal 350 Climate Action	Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.E.J.A.S.)
Riverdale Jewish Earth Alliance	Society of Alternative Resources	The 5 Gyres Institute
RootsAction.org	SocioEnergetics Foundation	The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE)
Safe Climate Campaign	South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)	The Climate Mobilization Hoboken Chapter
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper	South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light	The Climate Mobilization-Santa Barbara Chapter
San Francisco Baykeeper	South Shore Recycling Cooperative	The Enviro Show
SanDiego350	South Yuba River Citizens League	The Great American Rain Barrel
Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition	Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance	The Lands Council
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network		
Santa Fe Conservation Trust		

The Last Beach Cleanup	Waste Task Force
The Last Plastic Straw	WATCH, Inc
The New School	Waterkeeper Alliance
The Rewilding Institute	Waterkeepers Chesapeake
The River Project	Weather Medic Inc
The Shame Free Zone	WESPAC Foundation
The Story of Stuff Project	West 80s Neighborhood Association
The Wei LLC	Western Watersheds Project
Think Zero LLC	White Rabbit Grove RDNA
Town of Wellfleet Recycling Committee	White River Waterkeeper
Toxics Action Center	Wholly H2O
Toxics Information Project (TIP)	Wild Nature Institute
Transition Sebastopol	WILDCOAST
Turtle Island Restoration Network	WildEarth Guardians/Rio Grande Waterkeeper
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)	WilderUtopia
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge	Willamette Riverkeeper
Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)	Winyah Rivers Alliance
UO Climate Justice League	Women Working for Oceans
Upper West Side Recycling	Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, US
UPSTREAM	WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
Urban Bird Foundation	Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
UU FaithAction NJ	Young Democrats of America Environmental Caucus
Valley Watch, Inc.	Zanker Recycling
Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)	Zero Waste Arlington
Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG)	Zero Waste Kauai
Vokashi, Inc.	Zero Waste Marin
Vote-Climate	Zero Waste Society
Wabash Riverkeeper Network/ Banks of the Wabash, Inc.	Zero Waste Washington
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition	