

Attention: Tracey Spack
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Department of the Environment
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RE: *Canada Gazette*, Part I, Volume 155, Number 52: *Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*
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Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed *Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*. My name is [insert name], and I am writing this comment as a Canadian who is deeply worried about the future of the environment and plastic pollution in our country.

We would like to comment on the notable exclusion of single-use produce and meat bags, single-use plastic water bottles, and disposable beverage cups for hot liquids that are difficult to recycle, as well as the single-use plastics for export exemption in the proposed regulations. These exclusions and exemptions are particularly concerning for the following reasons:

1. Single-use produce and meat bags have similar characteristics as a checkout bag, and are used more frequently to carry fewer items, but are not included in the single-use checkout bags ban. This type of bag poses the same risk to marine life as a checkout bag and likely has a lower recycling rate, as they are thinner and more easily torn. Produce and meat bags are not necessary for shoppers, as there are reusable or paper alternatives to carry these items individually and in bulk. It is recommended by Health Canada that produce be washed at home to address any surface bacteria issues, which means the use of a plastic produce bag is redundant. Also, produce often has a protective rind or a peel that further reduces the need for in-store bagging.
2. Canadians consume more than 2.8 billion litres of bottled water, or 4.8 billion individual 500mL bottles of water, every year. Despite robust recycling programs across the country, approximately 30% of plastic water bottles are not recycled and end up in landfills. Annually, this would result in more than 1.4 billion 500mL plastic water bottles being landfilled. While the regulation framework exempts plastic water bottles, because of existing bottle deposit-refund and recycling infrastructure, these systems have not captured the significant number of plastic bottles entering Canadian landfills. A ban on plastic water bottles is a proactive step in preventing plastic waste by eliminating the opportunity for plastics to reach landfills or waterways.
3. Disposable cups for hot beverages are typically lined with polyethylene plastic that allows the cup to hold the hot liquid without soaking through. The plastic liner prevents paper cups from being recycled by municipal recycling programs, resulting in more than 1.6 billion hot beverage cups being sent directly to the landfill in Canada annually.
4. Allowing exported single-use plastics to pollute other countries shifts responsibility for plastic pollution instead of taking meaningful action to reduce the environmental impacts of plastic pollution. Businesses will continue to profit from the manufacturing of harmful plastics, in a departure from the federal government's commitment to extended producer responsibility, while Canadians are left with the burden of reducing plastic waste.

In summary, please take this information into consideration when making any adjustments for the final regulations. Amending the *Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations* to include a ban on single-use produce and meat bags, plastic water bottles, and disposable hot beverage cups will continue the important work in eliminating harmful plastics in Canada. Businesses and single-use plastic manufacturers must also be bound completely by the proposed ban, as exporting the banned single-use plastics is contrary to the intention of the regulations, which is reducing harmful single-use plastic pollution. Please see below for additional details and pertinent literature.

Yours sincerely,

[insert name]

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/partners/advbrita1017/should-we-ban-the-plastic-water-bottle/article36800902/>

<https://www.owsagottawa.org/q--a-on-bottled-water.html>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/coffee-cup-recycling-fee-1.3274510>