

Dear Manager,

I am a regular customer here. I am upset that so many of the groceries and other goods I purchase are encased in an unwarranted amount of plastic packaging. More than 40 percent of all plastic produced is for single-use packaging. Half of all the plastic produced worldwide has occurred in the past 15 years and 158 million tons of the 400 million tons of plastic made each year is for packaging.

It didn't use to be this way, and it doesn't have to be this way. For the sake of human health and the planet itself, we have to change things.

Plastic does not break down; it breaks up and becomes microplastics. Plastic waste has been found in the deepest portions of our oceans, in tap water, in the air, in human feces, and on both the North and South Poles. Once this plastic is in our environment it is nearly impossible to recover it. Every year communities conduct clean-ups on beaches, on river fronts and around lakes. Millions of pounds of plastic wastes are retrieved but this is only a short-term fix. We need to turn the plastic tap off if we are to tackle this problem. Please read the letter at <http://bit.ly/grocers-and-plastics> to learn more.

**I am asking you, as a grocery store manager, to help your customers stop the excessive use of plastic packaging.** Please:

- Support legislation that supports reusable bags and phases out plastic shopping bags
- Support the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020 (HR 5845) which is backed by more than 400 environmental groups and sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley and Rep. Alan Lowenthal. Learn more here: [www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/](http://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/)
- Ask your suppliers to cut down on plastic packaging or find alternative eco-packaging
- Seek out and support alternative packaging
- Talk to your customers about the changes your store is trying to make and ask for their support and suggestions
- Support customers who are currently using reusable bags
- Follow the example of stores like Bulk Barn and Spouts that have reusable containers and bags
- Develop a comprehensive plastic reduction program with target dates for actions

For the future, your customer,

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