

Rick Bonin, President, Whole Foods North Atlantic
250 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

May 18, 2022

Dear President Bonin,

On behalf of our 56 organizations, we are writing to you to urge you to eliminate single-use plastic packaging from Whole Foods stores in the North Atlantic Region. As people who are passionate about the health and abundance of our natural world, we believe Whole Foods has a bigger role to play in tackling the global plastics pollution problem.

From whales coming to the sea's surface to birds soaring through the skies to the moose, chipmunks, and cottontails that roam forest floors— our planet is home to majestic and incredible wildlife. Our landscapes, both coastal and inland, provide incredible opportunities for recreation and enjoyment – boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, biking, and more. We hold these activities close to our hearts and want to see landscapes and wildlife thrive for generations to come.

But plastic pollution is putting our oceans and our planet at risk. Nearly [700 marine species](#) that have been found to have plastic in their body, such as sperm whales, sea turtles, dolphins, fish, and crabs. Plastic that enters our lakes, rivers, and trails affect species such as the beaver, trout, and bald eagle. Even more alarming is the fact that plastics are [indestructible](#). The plastic that we use today will never disappear. As plastics break down into smaller pieces, toxic chemicals are released into our environment and eventually make their way into our own bodies.

Single-use plastic packaging is a major source of this pollution. [25 million tons](#) of single use plastics find their way to the oceans annually, the equivalent of 1 garbage truck of plastic being dumped into our oceans every minute. By 2030, that number is expected to increase to 2 trucks per minute, and 4 by 2050. This will do immense damage to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

To protect our planet, we need Whole Foods to take the lead on environmental protection once again and commit to eliminating single-use plastic packaging from its stores in the North Atlantic. Whole Foods led the industry when it [eliminated single use plastic bags](#) from checkout in 2008: it is time for Whole Foods to lead the charge again and ensure that customers can leave the store with a basket of groceries without the side of plastic. Other supermarket chains have already begun making the switch, such as Mid Atlantic chain [Giant Eagle](#), who has pledged to eliminate single use plastics from their 474 stores by 2025.

Plastic from the North Atlantic Region won't just affect people and wildlife in the Northeast— circulating ocean currents will carry plastic from North Atlantic Whole Foods around the world. The choice you make at this moment has the potential to have a global impact. We urge you to do the right thing for the health of our planet.

Sincerely,

Paul Cappuzzo
Quinnipiac University Democrats
Hamden, CT

Michael Pimenta
Geoclub, UCONN Storrs
Storrs, CT

Ilinca Johnson
American Fisheries Society UConn Chapter
Storrs, Mansfield, CT

Heather Miller
Charles River Watershed Association
Boston, MA

Eric Tran
Fabrio Magazine
Boston, MA

Janet Domenitz
MASSPIRG
Boston, MA

Maria Vasco
Uvida Shop LLC
Boston, MA

Sierra Rothberg
Clean Up Boston
Boston, MA

Keeley Bombard
Boston University Environmental Student
Organization
Brookline, MA

Samantha Putos
CURIO SPICE CO
Cambridge, MA

Natalie Sill
BC RealFood
Chestnut Hill, MA

Mary Lou Nicholson
Be the Solution to Pollution
Fairhaven, MA

Andy Rogan
Ocean Alliance
Gloucester, MA

Rickie Harvey
Boston Clean Energy Coalition
Boston, MA

Ben Hellerstein
Environment Massachusetts
Boston, MA

Emily Wallace
Husky Environmental Action Team
Boston, MA

Emily Heneghan
New England Water Environment Association-
NEU Chapter
Boston, MA

Dianne Matukaitis Brown
Women Working for Oceans (W2O)
Boston, MA

Pat Neary
Bridgewater Green Committee
Bridgewater, MA

Wendy Stahl
Brookline Mothers Out Front
Brookline, MA

Audrey Kang
Climate Justice, Boston College
Chestnut Hil, MA

Joe Kolodziejczak
Sea Eagles of Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA

David Starr
Berkshire Natural
Florence, MA

Anne Gero
Seaside Sustainability
Gloucester, MA

Karen Buck-Gilbert
Friends of the Malden River
Malden, MA

David New
Obaggo Recycling, LLC
Melrose, MA

Fiona Maguire
Boston College Environmental Law Society
Newton, MA

Rosemary Wessel
No Fracked Gas in Mass
Pittsfield, MA

Debbie Tatro
Plastic Free Sharon
Sharon, MA

Stephanie Blumenthal
Sheffield Saves
Sheffield, MA

Rani Sheaffer
Maine Conservation Voters
Augusta, ME

David Carter
UMaine Marine Science Club
Orono, ME

Sylvia Shelton
Colby Organic Farmers and Gardeners
Association
Waterville, ME

Linzy Rosen
Colby College Environmental Coalition
(Enviro-Co)
Waterville, ME

Robert Bluhm
Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout
Unlimited
Brookline, NH

Lucas Coriaty
UNH College Democrats
Durham, NH

Jarrett Taylor
MASSPIRG Students
Marshfield, MA

Carol "Krill" Carson
New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance
Middleboro, MA

Jane Winn
Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Pittsfield, MA

Sharon Kishida
Cape Ann Climate Coalition
Rockport, MA

Dr. Ricky S. Stern
Sustainable Sharon
Sharon, MA

Louis Hall
Vineyard New England Mountain Bike
Association
Vineyard Haven, MA

Kellie Navarro
Bowdoin College Naturalists Club
Brunswick, ME

Lutie Brown
Colby College Democrats
Waterville, ME

Emilie Pilchowski
Sunrise Colby
Waterville, ME

Landis Hudson
Maine Rivers
Yarmouth, ME

Andrea LaMoreaux
NH LAKES
Concord, NH

Zakary Robinson
Rising Tide Anglers- Fly Fishing Guide
Portsmouth, NH

Jessalyn Davis
Society for Women in Marine Science URI
Narragansett, RI

Callie Chan
EcoPC
Providence, RI

Rebecca Russell
Narrow River Preservation Association
Saunderstown, RI

Amelia Rose
Groundwork Rhode Island
Pawtucket, RI

Katie Kuhl
Providence College Animal Welfare Club
Providence, RI

Jon Dodd
Atlantic Shark Institute
South Kingstown, RI