



Plastics P.O. Box 82811, 467 Parliament St, Toronto ON M5A 3Y2

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6

October 8, 2020

Dear Honourable Wilkinson:

StopPlastics was encouraged to learn of the federal government's plan to ban grocery bags, straws, cutlery, stir sticks, six-pack rings and some take-out containers. But anyone who has been paying attention to plastic pollution will question why the government stopped short of making a more significant impact by also **banning non-grocery store bags, water bottles, food packaging, plastic cups and lids, coffee cups, cigarette butts, etc.**, all of which make up significant and deadly waste in our oceans and lakes, both at the surface and below.¹

We hope the government is sincere in its stated goal to protect wildlife and our waters, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to create jobs. If so, it is important that these items also be included since they are, according to the Ministry's own criteria, found in the environment, often are not recycled, and have readily available alternatives, the production of which could spur significant job creation.

In addition, it is widely reported that the plastics industry intends to ramp up plastic production in order to salvage a declining oil and gas industry. This is completely unacceptable in light of the harm plastic causes to the environment and health². Only with firm leadership on the part of government will we be able to stop industry from further contributing to the climate crisis.

StopPlastics looks forward to an amended list of banned, harmful, single-use plastics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna-Marie Batty for StopPlastics

PS This letter will also be sent via email

1

https://www.google.com/search?q=microplastics+on+sea+floor&rlz=1C1CHWL_enCA900CA900&oq=micro&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j46j69i57j0l4j0i271.2525j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

² <https://www.discovermagazine.com/health/many-bpa-free-plastics-are-toxic-some-are-worse-than-bpa>