

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

Thank you for tabling the draft regulation for a ban on six single use products. This is an important start to the goal of eliminating single-use and harmful plastic.

However, the proposed regulations fail to end the manufacture and export of single use plastics in Canada thereby undermining Canada's commitment to the international community and contradicting statements by the Prime Minister, your predecessor and your colleague.

"Canadians know first-hand the impacts of plastic pollution, and are tired of seeing their beaches, parks, streets, and shorelines littered with plastic waste. We have a responsibility to work with our partners to reduce plastic pollution, protect the environment, and create jobs and grow our economy. We owe it to our kids to keep the environment clean and safe for generations to come." The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"We've all seen the disturbing images of fish, sea turtles, whales, and other wildlife being injured or dying because of plastic garbage in our oceans. Canadians expect us to act. That's why our government intends to ban harmful single-use plastic products where science warrants it, and why we're working with partners across Canada and around the world to reduce plastic pollution." The Hon. Catherine McKenna, former Minister of Environment and Climate Change

"The health of our oceans is vital to the economic, cultural, and social well-being of Canada's coastal communities. We know plastic pollution harms Canada's oceans, wildlife, communities—and our economy. It's a problem we simply can't afford to ignore. We are working with industry to prevent and remove ghost fishing gear, to protect marine animals and the marine environment now and for future generations."The Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

Further, the export loophole in the draft regulation will disproportionately impact the Global South constituting an injustice to people and the environment.

We, therefore, call on the Government of Canada to remove the export provision that allows continuation of manufacturing of these six single use products for export.