

[DATE]

Dear Grocery Store Manager [NAME],

I am writing as a loyal customer, who has been shopping at your [LOCATION] store since [YEAR]. I would first like to take a moment to commend the excellent sustainability initiatives that Hannaford has already undertaken, which have not gone unnoticed by the many environmentalists, like myself, in this community.

However, I am greatly concerned by the copious amounts of non-recyclable, single-use plastics being utilized throughout the supermarket, most especially the plastic wrap, clamshells, and plastic produce bags featured in the produce section. As somebody who is striving to lessen my everyday environmental impact, it makes me hesitant to purchase some products at your store as I do not want to be responsible for further contributing to today's plastic pollution crisis.

You may already know that single-use plastic packaging in supermarkets ranks as the largest contributor to plastic waste. And some of the concerns around plastics are quite dire. For instance:

- **Plastic never fully biodegrades.** Instead it breaks down into microplastics, which are then absorbed by the air, water, soil, and bodies of wildlife and humans alike.
- **Plastic recycling is largely a myth—less than a tenth of the plastics produced are recycled,** with the vast majority of it instead ending up in incinerators or landfills.
- **Plastics are made from petroleum products,** and their production requires continued fossil fuel resource extraction, which is exacerbating today's climate crisis.

As part of a leading supermarket chain in the Hudson Valley, I would like your store to demonstrate a commitment to plastic reduction via the following actionable measures:

- **Stop selling plastic-wrapped produce.** Fruits and vegetables can be sold loosely, as many already are. To achieve this, Hannaford can demand that the suppliers you order from eliminate their unnecessary packaging. If Hannaford refuses to order products wrapped in plastic, suppliers will listen.
- **Do away with plastic produce bags.** Customers should be encouraged to bring their own reusable produce bags or containers, which can be prompted via signage, and perhaps incentivized via a small discount. Hannaford could also sell reusable produce bags for customers in the produce aisle. Or, compostable bioplastic bags could be offered for a small fee, for the occasional convenience of temporary packaging.

As you know, the public, like myself, is increasingly concerned around the issue of plastic pollution. Hannaford has already demonstrated its commitment to a more sustainable business model, and I encourage you to continue this trajectory of environmental leadership, which will bring even more integrity to your brand and inspire more customers to shop at your store.

I think we can all agree that doing business as usual is no longer acceptable, most especially when viable alternatives to single-use plastic overpackaging are readily available to us today.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing more about the verifiable targets and timelines set for Hannaford's planned plastic reduction response.

Sincerely,

[NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER]