

SAMPLE ACTION ALERT: Call Your NY State Assemblymembers

Subject: Call Your NY State Assemblymember & urge them to Vote Yes on Assembly bill 5322-D

Summertime is here. We hope you get some down time with family and friends. At Beyond Plastics our work is not yet done. When you enjoy local parks and beaches and neighborhoods this summer you will undoubtedly see a growing amount of plastic litter. Litter that lasts for decades and if it gets washed into storm drains, it pollutes our rivers and the ocean. New Yorkers have a unique opportunity to turn off the plastic tap, but we need your help to do it.

We have wonderful news: The NYS Senate passed a major plastics reduction bill on June 7th - and now it's time for the State Assembly to pass the same bill.

{Firstname}, [can you please make 2 quick calls](#) to urge your own New York State Assemblymember and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to vote YES! on a critical bill that would dramatically reduce single-use plastics? 🕒

➡️ **Pick up the phone to ask your State Assemblymember to vote “YES” on the Packaging Reduction & Recycling Infrastructure Act the next time the Assembly is in session, Assembly bill A5322-D**

1. Dial the Assembly Switchboard at 518-455-4100 and ask to be connected to your Assemblymember's district office. You'll need to know your Assemblymember's name; [if you're not sure who your Assemblymember is, click here to look them up](#). You can also find their district office number on their website.

When someone answers, ask if the Assemblymember is in the office and if you can speak to them. Please use the suggested script below to ask how they plan to vote on the bill. Try to get a direct answer from the member; if the office cannot give you a direct answer, ask them to call you back with an answer.

“Hi, my name is NAME and I’m calling from YOUR TOWN/CITY to urge the Assemblymember to vote YES on Assembly bill 5322-D, The Packaging Reduction & Recycling Infrastructure Act, the next time the assembly is in session. It’s being reported there may be a special session. Can you tell me how you plan to vote if the Packaging bill comes up?”

Feel free to add why reducing single-use plastics is important to you.

2. Then call Assembly Speaker Heastie at 718-654-6539. If you can’t get through, try 212-312-1400. Use this suggestion call script:

“Hi, my name is NAME and I’m calling from YOUR TOWN/CITY to urge the Assembly Speaker to bring the Assembly back into session and pass Assembly bill 5322-D, The Packaging Reduction & Recycling Infrastructure Act.”

3. [Click here to let us know if you were able to get through and how your calls went.](#) This information is critical to our efforts so please don't skip it.



Background

Right now, when New Yorkers buy products at a store or online, they have little control over the amount of packaging that those products come in. **It's time to make polluters pay, not taxpayers.**

The New York State Senate passed the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A5322-d/S4246-d) on June 7. Now, it's the Assembly's turn to pass the bill. This transformative bill would address our solid waste crisis and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and incinerators by requiring companies to:

- Reduce single use packaging by 30% over 12 years.
- Ban the most toxic chemicals used in packaging including all PFAS chemicals, vinyl chloride, lead, mercury, formaldehyde, and more
- Prohibit industry- promoted chemical recycling to count as real recycling.
- Pay a modest fee on packaging and direct that new money to local governments to support recycling, reuse, and waste reduction infrastructure programs. (i.e. dishwashing equipment in schools so children do not continue to eat off single-use disposable plastics, water fountains in public places, etc).
- Create a Producer Responsibility Organization to implement the program, with oversight from a new Recycling Inspector General.

Why we need this legislation NOW:

- **40% of plastic production is to make single-use items that clog our landfills, pollute our air, water, and soil when burned in incinerators, or end up littering our environment.**
- **Plastic is a major climate change polluter at every stage of its life cycle.** In fact, if plastic were a country it would be the world's fifth largest greenhouse gas polluter.
- The recommendations in the scoping plan for New York's landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act specifically call on the legislature to pass a strong bill to reduce packaging and make producers responsible for it.

- **New York has a whopping 10 municipal waste incinerators**, tied with Florida for the most incinerators in any U.S. state. These facilities **threaten environmental justice communities** across the state by producing hundreds of thousands of tons of greenhouse gasses, air pollution, and toxic ash each year. The ash from incinerators is so toxic that it has to be stored in yet another landfill known as a toxic ash dump.
- In 2022, alone, **New York City taxpayers spent a whopping \$448 million to export roughly 5 million tons of waste** to incinerators and landfills in other states or to the Finger Lakes in upstate NY.

Thank you for helping to make New York a better place to live and work, especially for our kids and grandkids. We can do this, but only with your help and support.

Sincerely,