

Dear Selectboard,

I am a resident and am writing to ask that our town enforce the single-use plastic bottle bylaw. While many businesses have made changes, some are not in compliance or are unaware of the regulation and are not being penalized.

I support this bylaw for the following reasons:

- Chemicals detrimental to human health can leach from the plastic into the bottle's contents (for example, polyethylene terephthalate). Compounds found in microplastics are linked to serious health issues such as endocrine disruption, weight gain, insulin resistance, decreased reproductive health, and cancer.
- Plastics are made from fossil fuels, which emit harmful greenhouse gases and contribute to the climate crisis. Furthermore, the transportation of single-use plastic water bottles further adds to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Plastics cause tremendous long-term harm to our environment. A single-use plastic bottle is used on average for 12 minutes but takes over 450 years to break down. Overuse of plastic bottles increases the amount of plastics found in oceans and harms marine animals while they ingest microplastics.
- We cannot continue to commit environmental and human injustice by shipping our harmful waste to other countries.

Cities and townships across the United States have adopted the ban of single-use water bottles and implemented common-sense solutions to maintain easy access to water for its citizens. Great alternatives to single-use plastic bottles are readily available for consumers and businesses.

By not enforcing this bylaw, our town government is not upholding due process, and the people's vote is being ignored. I ask that you take the bylaw seriously and enforce it to ensure that we encourage behaviors island-wide that will lower our carbon footprint, not increase it.

Best,