

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM PLASTIC

What Supporters are Saying about the Protecting Communities from Plastics Act

Christy Leavitt, Plastics Campaign Director, Oceana:

“We applaud Senator Booker and Representative Huffman for introducing the Protecting Communities from Plastics Act to address the plastic pollution crisis that disproportionately affects the health of fenceline communities near plastic production facilities. The bill will move our economy away from unnecessary single-use plastics and toward nontoxic reuse and refill systems. With production growing at a rapid rate, plastic can be expected to flood our blue planet with dire consequences, inundating our oceans, impacting the climate, and harming our health. Congress has no time to waste to pass this important bill.”

Aarthi Ananthanarayanan, Director, Climate & Plastics Initiative, Ocean Conservancy:

“We are in the midst of a plastic pollution crisis and what we see wash up on our shores is just the tip of the iceberg. Plastic pollution impacts stretch far beyond what we can see, from microplastics and toxic chemicals to greenhouse gas emissions with disproportionate impacts to low-income and communities of color. The Protecting Communities From Plastics Act is a critical step in cracking down on harmful plastic production processes, moving us away from single-use plastics and addressing environmental justice impacts across the plastics lifecycle. We thank Senator Booker, Representative Huffman, and their colleagues for standing up to the petrochemical industry to protect our communities and our ocean.”

Melody Reis, Senior Legislative and Regulatory Policy Manager, Moms Clean Air Force:

“Plastic is in the air we breathe and the water we drink. It’s in our oceans and littering our streets and parks. Plastic pollutes at every stage of the supply chain from its creation to its disposal. We must reduce our reliance on unnecessary plastic, and we must protect the people most affected by the toxicity of plastic production and disposal. The Protecting Communities from Plastics Act takes meaningful action on both fronts and represents progress towards a safer and healthier future. We applaud its reintroduction and urge Congress to take swift action.”

Jennifer Savage, Plastic Pollution Initiative Senior Manager, Surfrider Foundation:

“Plastic production is toxic at every stage beginning with the extraction of fossil fuels, continuing by polluting the air and water of communities near production facilities, poisoning our very bodies and ultimately harming our ocean upon which all life depends. We applaud the Protecting Communities from Plastics Act for seeking to stop this egregious harm and providing a much-needed course correction toward the cleaner, healthier and more sensible future we all deserve.”

Jim Walsh, Policy Director, Food & Water Watch and Food & Water Action:

"Single use plastics are poisoning communities, destroying our climate, polluting our rivers and streams, and undermining our efforts to transition off fossil fuels. The plastics production supply chain is a public health menace at every step along the way -- from the leaky and dangerous fracking wells and pipelines to the mega-refineries that churn out air pollution. We applaud Senator Booker and Representative Huffman for introducing the Protecting Communities from Plastic Act, which will start putting community health and wellbeing ahead of fossil fuel industry profits."

Julie Teel Simmonds, senior counsel at the Center for Biological Diversity:

"To stop the harm plastic inflicts at every point in its lifecycle, we have to cut production and tackle the petrochemical industry's staggering air and water pollution head on. This act is right on target to do that. People living near petrochemical plants are paying with their health for our industry-driven throwaway culture, and that has to end. This ambitious legislation will help us stop plastic's invasion of every corner of the planet and our bodies, and it charts a more just path forward."

Astrid DuBois, Government Affairs Manager of WE Act for Environmental Justice:

"Plastics and fossil fuel derived products are entwined in our daily lives, but the dirty truth is that lives continue to be lost from the plastic industry's deadly pollution and outsized carbon emissions. The Protecting Communities from Plastic Act will safeguard Communities of Color and areas of low income, who are most impacted by petrochemical facilities. One way the bill does this is by requiring cumulative impact considerations in the permitting process, which would make strides to ensure communities break free from health harms caused by plastic industries."