

Ms. Adina Torberntsson  
Procurement Analyst  
gsarpolicy@gsa.gov

Re: General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Single-Use Plastics And Packaging; GSAR Case 2022-G517; Docket No. GSA-GSAR-2022-0014

September 6, 2022

Dear Ms. Adina Torberntsson,

Oceana, the largest international organization focused solely on ocean conservation, is submitting the attached 9,341 signatures urging the General Services Administration (GSA) to move swiftly to phase out the purchasing of non-essential single-use plastic items and eliminate single-use plastic for packaging and shipping throughout federal government buildings and operations. We ask that these names be entered into the official record and considered as separate public comments. Each of the following 9,341 people signed the public comment language below:

*We are writing to urge the General Services Administration (GSA) to move swiftly to phase out the purchasing of non-essential single-use plastic items and eliminate single-use plastic for packaging and shipping throughout our federal government buildings and operations. Thank you for this initial comment period on reducing single-use plastic (GSAR Case 2022-G51) to inform a subsequent rulemaking on this important topic.*

*The oceans face a massive and growing threat from plastic pollution. An estimated 33 billion pounds of plastic enter the marine environment every year. This is roughly equivalent to dumping two garbage trucks full of plastic into the oceans every minute. Plastic pollution has been found floating on the surface of the ocean, washing up on the world's most remote coastlines, melting out of Arctic Sea ice and sitting at the deepest point of the ocean floor. As plastic floods our seas, it impacts everything from zooplankton and fish to sea turtles, whales, dolphins, and seabirds.*

*The production and disposal of plastic endangers fenceline communities and public health. From spills of preproduction plastic pellets in communities and waterways to air pollution from the production of plastic and the incineration of waste, plastic impacts historically oppressed communities living next to plastic and petrochemical facilities. In addition, the bulk of plastics are made from fossil fuels. From the point of extraction of raw materials to the creation of products and end-of-life waste, plastics are a growing threat to our climate. In fact, if plastic were a country, it would emit the fifth most greenhouse gases in the world.*

*By phasing out the purchasing of single-use plastics within the U.S. government procurement, GSA aligns its operations with Executive Order 14008 on tackling the climate crisis and Executive Order 14057 on sustainability.*

*Numerous businesses offer safe alternatives to single-use plastic products. Refill and reuse systems provide the best options to reduce pollution and the need for waste management and bring down shipping demands for heavy products, such as beverages.*

*As the single largest consumer of goods and services in the world, the U.S. government's purchasing choices can play a significant role in reducing plastic pollution and moving the economy away from unnecessary single-use plastic. We urge you to prohibit the purchasing of non-essential single-use plastic products for our federal governmental buildings and agencies.*

We urge the General Services Administration to move forward quickly to a final rulemaking to protect our oceans, communities, and climate from plastic pollution.

Sincerely,  
Christy Leavitt  
Plastics Campaign Director