

HR 2238

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Mar 26, 2021

Current Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Latest Action: Subcommittee Hearings Held. (Jun 30, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2238>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (130 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Auchincloss, Jake [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Jacobs, Sara [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Kahele, Kaiali'i [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Mar 26, 2021

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Leger Fernandez, Teresa [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]	D · VA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Morelle, Joseph D. [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Newman, Marie [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]	D · MD		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Schrier, Kim [D-WA-8]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Strickland, Marilyn [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Trahan, Lori [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Mar 26, 2021

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Wild, Susan [D-PA-7]	D · PA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]	D · PA		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]	D · CA		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Apr 8, 2021
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Apr 13, 2021
Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]	D · IL		Apr 13, 2021
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		May 17, 2021
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		May 17, 2021
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		May 17, 2021
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		May 17, 2021
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		May 19, 2021
Rep. Torres, Ritchie [D-NY-15]	D · NY		May 25, 2021
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jun 8, 2021
Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jun 14, 2021
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Jun 29, 2021
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jul 6, 2021
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Jul 6, 2021
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jul 20, 2021
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Aug 6, 2021
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Manning, Kathy E. [D-NC-6]	D · NC		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Aug 24, 2021
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7]	D · FL		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Bourdeaux, Carolyn [D-GA-7]	D · GA		Sep 7, 2021
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie Ann [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Sep 14, 2021
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Sep 20, 2021
Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]	D · IL		Sep 20, 2021
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Sep 21, 2021
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Sep 23, 2021
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Nov 1, 2021
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Nov 23, 2021
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Nov 23, 2021
Rep. Casten, Sean [D-IL-6]	D · IL		Jan 18, 2022
Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6]	D · GA		Jan 18, 2022
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jan 18, 2022
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Mar 2, 2022

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McEachin, A. Donald [D-VA-4]	D · VA		Mar 2, 2022
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Mar 29, 2022
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jun 8, 2022
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jun 8, 2022
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Sep 29, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Jun 30, 2022
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 26, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 29, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 26, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7861	Related bill	May 23, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
117 S 1507	Related bill	Apr 29, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
117 S 984	Identical bill	Mar 25, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021

This bill sets forth requirements and incentives to reduce the production of a variety of products and materials, including plastics, and increase efforts to collect, recycle, or compost products and materials.

The bill makes certain producers of products (e.g., packaging, paper, single-use products, beverage containers, or food service products) fiscally responsible for collecting, managing, and recycling or composting the products after consumer use. In addition, the bill establishes (1) minimum percentages of products that must be reused, recycled, or composted; and (2) an increasing percentage of recycled content that must be contained in beverage containers.

Beginning on January 1, 2023, the bill phases out a variety of single-use products, such as plastic utensils. The bill also sets forth provisions to encourage the reduction of single-use products, including by establishing programs to refund consumers for returning beverage containers and by establishing a tax on carryout bags.

The bill creates a temporary moratorium on new or expanded permits for certain facilities that manufacture plastics until regulations are updated to address pollution from the facilities.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must publish guidelines for a national standardized labeling system for recycling and composting receptacles. Producers must include labels on their products that are easy to read and indicate whether the products are recyclable, compostable, or reusable. The EPA must also ensure that certain clothes washers have filtration units as required by this bill.

Finally, the bill establishes limitations on the export of plastic waste to other countries.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 30, 2022:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Mar 29, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Mar 29, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.
- **Mar 26, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 26, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.