



Banning Toxics from Plastic Bottles Act of 2026

Introduced By: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.); Cory Booker (D-N.J.); Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.); Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.)

Background:

Forever chemicals, such as Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS), threaten public health and disproportionately impact marginalized communities. PFAS chemicals are [linked](#) to kidney and liver cancers, thyroid disruption, and immune system weakening. Scientists have not identified any safe level of exposure for these forever chemicals, yet they are found in [45%](#) of the tap water in the United States. Congress must take bold action to address the environmental and health risks posed by toxic plastic substances that are pervasive in America's food and beverage packaging.

Legislation:

The *Banning Toxics from Plastic Bottles Act* would prohibit the sale of plastic beverage containers that contain toxic substances and dyes linked to adverse health and environmental impacts, including PFAS. Retailers that violate this provision would be fined for each product line sold in violation. These funds would be used to create a grant fund through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that would provide local waste management and water infrastructure facilities with needed resources to address plastic pollution. The bill also requires the EPA to prioritize rural and historically underserved communities when issuing the grants.

Substances included in the *Banning Toxics in Plastic Bottles Act* list have been identified by the national expert group, the U.S. Plastics Pact Group, as problematic or unnecessary due to their harm to human and environmental health, a high likelihood of being littered, ability to be avoided or replaced by another substance, hinderance waste processing, or inability to be recyclable, reusable, or composted. Large food and beverage companies, waste processors, trade associations, and nonprofits are supporters of the U.S. Plastics Pact.

Supporting Organizations:

The *Banning Toxics from Plastic Bottles Act* is endorsed by Ocean Conservancy.