

Dear _____,

As a community dedicated to recycling and composting our waste, we'd like to thank you for labeling your products as to the type of plastic they contain. But we're concerned by the overwhelming amount of plastic not being recycled by this country, and your products are on the list.

We live in Columbia County New York, in the Town of Chatham. We are not densely populated, and our county trash hauler has no viable market for any plastics but #1, #2, and #5. That leaves us putting #3, #4, #6, and #7 in the landfill, which makes us very unhappy. We're one of many communities in the country that feel this way.

We want to leave this planet a better place than we found it. We need your help. With all the ingenious biodegradable alternatives out there, could you please phase out your use of plastics that are so difficult to recycle?

We'd prefer to support companies whose products come in compostable packaging. There's packaging being made from cassava starch, vegetable polymers, mushrooms, corn, even seaweed! We're willing to pay a few cents more for your product if it means a healthier planet.

Even switching to the easily recycled #1, #2 or #5 plastics would help. If compostable materials really aren't an option, it's a next best step. But we'd rather support companies whose products biodegrade in compost piles.

We urge you to lead by example, so we don't hand off such a polluted earth to the next generation.