

Environmental Citizen  
123 My Street  
My City CA ZIP  
June 1, 2018

*[You will need to personalize italicized items]*

Mark Jansen, President & CEO  
Blue Diamond Growers  
1802 C Street  
Sacramento CA 95811-1010

Hello Mr. Jansen,

*My son loves your Blue Diamond Smokehouse Almond snacks.* I'm pleased that they are healthy (though I'd love for you to move up to organic) but sadly the packaging in which they are encased are neither recyclable nor biodegradable and not very popular with the oceans, waterways and landfills. I am be searching for sustainably packaged alternatives

As you are most likely aware China and southeast Asian countries are no longer accepting our plastics for recycling; we are effectively able to recycle about 2% of household plastic waste, most of it PETE #1 and #2 plastic bottle. More importantly, plastics pollute at every step along the way from oil and gas extraction to landfill where your bags reside in perpetuity and off-gas. Your bags are a plastic metallic composite and do not even rate a recycle number code which means they go straight to landfill). The smart graphics and satin finish of the package does not read "premium" to me, just 600 years to decompose for a product that is used up in less than a month. Healthy bodies should live on a healthy planet.

I am tired of increasingly high public disposal rates for environmentally disastrous packaging which I do not feel is any more sanitary than alternatives. I believe that manufacturers & producers should bear the cost of packaging disposal for their products. I am hereby returning your packaging for you to dispose of (& will be returning any others that I receive in the future).

Almonds and nuts are a dry product and do not leak so there is zero necessity for them to be packaged in plastic. There is this very "old school" technology (which still exists) called waxed paper which is still used for cereal and some chip manufacturers. I have attached a Guide sheet to Sustainable Packaging Standards that you can share with your marketing/packaging team directing them to responsible alternatives. I do hope that you will discontinue these bags in the near future and consider alternatives as I would like to be able to give you kudos when this happens. Please work with other members of the processed foods industry to employ biodegradable and sustainable packaging.

Love your mother Earth. Please embrace Zero Plastic Waste now and consider companywide policies that do not force disposal of plastics in the hands of your customers.

Sustainably Yours,

Zero Waste Citizen  
Zero Plastic Waste NOW! Coalition  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/zeroplasticwastenow/>

