

Environmental Citizen

123 My Street
My City CA ZIP
June 1, 2018

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Mr. Dan Bane, CEO
Trader Joe's, Inc
PO Box 5049
Monrovia CA 91017-7149

Hello Mr. Bane,

I have been a regular customer at Trader Joe's since shortly after the opening of your 2nd store in LaCrescenta; I especially appreciate your many organic and gluten free offerings. However, it seems that, over time, more of the packaging in which products are encased are made not only of single composition plastic (most of which is rarely recycled) but of composite materials which are not even collected at local levels. Most frustrating is when what is packaged are dry products and Trader Joe quick turnover cycles do not even demand long term freshness.

I suspect you are not the one making the daily decisions at the home and in the office of how to ethically dispose of plastics which public waste systems toss into landfill and chains that no longer even bother to put out a bag recycling container. I must make those awful decision, daily. Trader Joe's management (you) and the other chains have the power to demand compostable packaging from your suppliers. Customers would gladly pay a few more cents per package to stop our increasingly high public disposal rates for environmentally disastrous packaging. 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 more in the future).

Nuts, chips and health bars are basically dry products 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.

The US is now only effectively able to recycle about 2% of household plastic waste, most of it PETE #1 and #2 plastic bottles. Plastics pollute every step along the way: oil & gas extraction to landfill where Trader Joe bags reside in perpetuity and off-gas. The enclosed bags are a plastic metallic composite and do not even rate a recycle number code. 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 week. Healthy bodies should live on a healthy planet.

Love your mother Earth. Please embrace Zero Plastic Waste NOW and consider companywide policies that do not force unsustainable 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/>

Attachment: Guide to Sustainable Packaging