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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 April 2019 6:13 PM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Submission on the Enquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

To Whom It May Concern,

I was extremely surprised when it was revealed that we don't actually process our own recycling. Our dependence on other countries is very concerning, given that they can pull out of agreements at any time and leave us in crisis situations just like this one. We needed our own recycling facilities yesterday, not only for our own independence, but to provide jobs.

I support processing our own recycling and refund schemes. However, unless you stem the tide of rubbish at the source, we will continue to have problems. It is not enough to ask consumers to recycle because the reality is that almost everything we buy comes in plastic packaging - and often it cannot be recycled. Yogurt, rice, meat, milk, even vegetables nowadays are all sold in plastic. Consumers literally don't have a choice but to buy these products unless they would like their families to starve.

You need to ban all single-use plastic and make it illegal for manufacturers to produce packaging that is not biodegradable. When I buy food from the supermarket, all I want to do is feed my family, and yet I am forced to contribute to a huge problem because I cannot buy what I need without the plastic it comes in.

We need to transition back to the days where plastic was largely nonexistent and people brought their glass jars and cloth bags with them when shopping. Products need to be available in dispensers instead of packaged. I should be able to opt out of plastic altogether by bringing a container to put all my shopping in - even products like milk, dips, condiments and yogurt should be available this way, and it should be encouraged. Sustainability needs to be built into the lifecycle of all packaging and the onus needs to be put back onto the manufacturers, because at the moment, consumers literally don't have the choice to buy the same thing without the packaging. Packaging should be highly discouraged, should only be used if there is no other option and should absolutely always be biodegradable - there is no excuse when this technology exists.

Please keep my response and contact details confidential.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]