

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 697

Designating July 2022 as “Plastic Pollution Action Month”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2022

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating July 2022 as “Plastic Pollution Action Month”.

Whereas plastic pollution represents a global threat that will require individual and collective action, both nationally and internationally, to address;

Whereas, since the 1950s, over 8,000,000,000 tons of plastic have been produced worldwide;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) just 9 percent of plastic waste is sorted for recycling; and

(2) less than 3 percent of plastic waste is recycled into a similar quality product;

Whereas a recent study found that, despite the United States only accounting for 4 percent of the global population in 2016, in that same year the United States—

(1) generated 17 percent of all plastic waste; and

(2) ranked third among all countries contributing to coastal plastic pollution;

Whereas single-use plastics account for at least 40 percent of the plastic produced every year;

Whereas over 12,000,000 tons of plastic waste enter the ocean every year from land-based sources alone;

Whereas, if no action is taken, the flow of plastics into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040;

Whereas studies estimate that there are between 15,000,000,000,000 and 51,000,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the oceans;

Whereas, globally, 100,000 marine mammals die every year as a result of plastic pollution;

Whereas plastics, and associated chemicals of plastics, directly impact human health;

Whereas studies suggest that, every week, humans swallow the amount of plastic that is in a credit card;

Whereas taking action to reduce plastic use, collect and clean up litter, and reuse and recycle more plastics will lead to less plastic pollution;

Whereas, every July, people challenge themselves to reduce their plastic footprint through “Plastics Free July”;

Whereas, during the International Coastal Cleanup in 2020, nearly 950,000 people across the globe cleaned up over 10,000 tons of plastic from beaches;

Whereas switching to reusable items instead of single-use items can prevent waste, save water, and reduce litter;  
and

Whereas July 2022 is an appropriate month to designate as Plastic Pollution Action Month to recommit to taking action, individually and as a country, to reduce plastic pollution: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2           (1) designates July 2022 as “Plastic Pollution  
3       Action Month”;

4           (2) recognizes the dangers to human health and  
5       the environment posed by plastic pollution; and

6           (3) encourages all individuals in the United  
7       States to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild  
8       the environment by responsibly participating in ac-  
9       tivities to reduce plastic pollution in July 2022 and  
10      year-round.

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