

## Participating Organizations

Alliance for a Living Ocean  
American Littoral Society  
Asbury Park Fishing Club  
Atlantic Highlands Arts Council  
Bayshore Regional Watershed Council  
Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders  
Belford Seafood Co-op  
Belmar Fishing Club  
Beneath The Sea  
Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network  
Berkeley Shores Homeowners Civic Association  
Cape May Environmental Commission  
Central Jersey Anglers  
Citizens Conservation Council of Ocean County  
Clean Air Campaign, NY  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition Against Toxics  
Coalition for Peace & Justice/Unplug Salem  
Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club  
Communication Workers of America, Local 1075  
Concerned Businesses of COA  
Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst  
Concerned Citizens of COA  
Concerned Citizens of Montauk  
Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce  
Environment NJ  
Fishermen's Conservation Association, NJ Chapter  
Fishermen's Conservation Association, NY Chapter  
Fishermen's Dock Cooperative, Pt. Pleasant  
Food and Water Watch, NJ  
Friends of Island Beach State Park  
Friends of Liberty State Park, NJ  
Friends of the Boardwalk, NY  
Garden Club of Allenhurst  
Garden Club of Bay Head and Mantoloking/Seaweeds  
Garden Club of Brielle/Bayberry  
Garden Club of Englewood  
Garden Club of Fair Haven  
Garden Club of Long Beach Island  
Garden Club of RFD Middletown  
Garden Club of Morristown  
Garden Club of Navesink  
Garden Club of New Jersey  
Garden Club of New Vernon  
Garden Club of Oceanport  
Garden Club of Princeton  
Garden Club of Ridgewood  
Garden Club of Rumson  
Garden Club of Sea Girt/Holly  
Garden Club of Short Hills  
Garden Club of Shrewsbury  
Garden Club of Spring Lake  
Garden Club of Terra Nova  
Garden Club of Washington Valley  
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association  
Green Party of Monmouth County  
Green Party of New Jersey  
Highlands Business Partnership  
Hudson River Fishermen's Association  
Jersey Shore Captains Association  
Jersey Shore Parrot Head Club  
Jersey Shore Partnership  
Junior League of Monmouth County  
Keyport Environmental Commission  
Kiwanis Club of Shadow Lake Village  
Leonardo Party & Pleasure Boat Association  
Mantoloking Environmental Commission  
Marine Trades Association of NJ  
Monmouth Conservation Foundation  
Monmouth County Association of Realtors  
Monmouth County Audubon Society  
National Coalition for Marine Conservation  
Natural Resources Protective Association, NY  
NJ Beach Buggy Association  
NJ Environmental Lobby  
NJ Friends of Clearwater  
NJ Marine Education Association  
Nottingham Hunting & Fishing Club, NJ  
NYC Sea Gypsies  
NY Marine Education Association  
NY/NJ Baykeeper  
Ocean Wreck Divers, NJ  
PaddleOut.org  
Piscatinny Saltwater Sportsmen Club  
Raritan Riverkeeper  
Religious on Water  
Rotary Club of Point Pleasant  
Rotary District #7540—Interact  
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County  
Sandy Hook Bay Anglers  
Save Barnegat Bay  
Save the Bay, NJ  
SEAS Monmouth  
Shark Research Institute  
Shark River Cleanup Coalition  
Shark River Surf Anglers  
Sierra Club, NJ Shore Chapter  
Sisters of Charity, Maris Stella  
South Monmouth Board of Realtors  
Staten Island Tuna Club  
Strathmere Fishing & Environmental Club  
Sunrise Rod & Gun Club  
Surfers' Environmental Alliance  
Surfrider Foundation, Jersey Shore Chapter  
Surfrider Foundation, South Jersey Chapter  
TACK 1, MA  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation/Monm. Cnty.  
United Boatmen of NJ/NJ  
Viking Village  
WATERSPIRIT  
Women's Club of Brick Township  
Women's Club of Keyport  
Women's Club of Long Branch  
Women's Club of Merchantville  
Women's Club of Spring Lake  
Zen Society, NJ



*Ocean Advocacy  
Since 1984*

## Clean Ocean Action

### Headquarters:

49 Avenel Blvd  
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Telephone (732) 872-0111

Fax (732) 872-8041

info@CleanOceanAction.org

CleanOceanAction.org

### Field Office:

18 Hartshorne Dr, Suite 2  
Sandy Hook  
Highlands, NJ, 07732-0505

## **Testimony on S.2515 by Peter Blair Esq., Policy Attorney of Clean Ocean Action, before the New Jersey Senate**

### **Environment and Energy Committee.**

**June 16, 2020.**

Good afternoon, my name is Peter Blair, I am an attorney with Clean Ocean Action. Clean Ocean Action is a leading regional environmental non-profit organization focused on protecting and enhancing the marine and coastal ecosystems of New York and New Jersey. Since 1984, Clean Ocean Action has been relentlessly sounding the alarm about the need to seriously address our plastic consumption and recycling practices due to the ever-growing issue of plastics polluting our coastal environments, ocean, rivers, streams, and roads.

Thank you, Senator Smith, and the members of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee for the opportunity to be a part of the preliminary discussions on this legislation. Clean Ocean Action supports the concept and the overall focus of this legislation. Creating markets for post-consumer recycled materials is an essential facet of a broader comprehensive approach to meaningfully address plastic pollution, not only here in New Jersey, but around the country. This legislation is a critical component of the state's overall efforts to reduce plastic pollution as it will help ensure the development of a market for post-consumer recycled content, and thereby limit the need for newly produced plastic and help ensure more plastic is routed to recycling centers, and not the ocean and marine environment.

However, Clean Ocean Action cautions that this not be a substitute for other complimentary and necessary actions that also must occur. To effectively address the plastic crisis, this legislation must be a part of a broader approach that focuses on not only fixing the recycling market, but on reducing unnecessary and environmentally harmful single-use plastic items and creating an overall shift away from a culture that embraces disposability, to one centered on reuse where possible. Therefore, while COA supports this legislation, we strongly advocate that it be a part of a legislative package that includes other measures, such as Senate Bill 864, which would prohibit single-use plastic carryout bags, polystyrene foam food containers, and mandate straw-by-request across the state. This legislation must complement the others, not replace them. We can only meaningfully address plastic pollution if we take a holistic approach. There is no one fix all solution.

In terms of the specifics of S.2515, Clean Ocean Action offers the following suggestions to ensure the legislation is as strong and environmentally protective as possible. First, eliminate or strongly increase the definition of "source reduced

Clean Ocean Action

packaging.” The definition as it stands would allow manufacturers to escape the requirements of the law by creating a package which is only 10% lighter than the standard packaging for that item. This creates an unnecessary means for avoiding compliance. Therefore, the term should be removed, or the definition reworked to create a stronger level of packaging reduction.

Second, COA recommends increasing the timeframes for the requirements for plastic beverage containers to match that of California’s Assembly Bill 792. The requirements in the two bills are identical and by having them operate under the same timeframe, the legislative efforts would act in concert to create a more meaningful market change across the country.

Third, COA strongly urges the legislation to require higher percentages of post-consumer recycled content for plastic film trash bags, reusable bags, and paper bags. As currently written the legislation only mandates that plastic trash bags contain a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled content by 2022. This legislation should create a progressive standard which increases overtime as it did with virtually all of the other items.

Fourth, the prohibition on “polystyrene loose fill packaging” should be expanded to prohibit all polystyrene packaging. The alternatives to polystyrene packaging are cost-effective, widely used, and the environmental impacts from polystyrene are well documented.

In sum, Clean Ocean Action is supportive of S.2515 and is encouraged to see the initiative being taken here in New Jersey to pass the strongest and most common-sense recycled content legislation in the nation. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. This legislation is a needed step that will make recycling more meaningful in New Jersey and help increase the public’s level of trust in the process of recycling.

Respectfully submitted.



Peter Blair, Esq.  
Policy Attorney  
Clean Ocean Action.