

## SAMPLE PETITION LANGUAGE FOR STRAWS UPON REQUEST ONLY

*Use this language as a starting point for your petition to enact a Straws Upon Request Law.*

*We recommend using an online petition so that you can easily reach more people through social media. There are many websites that host petitions for free such as Action Network, iPetition, and Change.org. These sites make it easy to create, share, and manage your petition.*

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“We, the undersigned residents of [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION], support the passage of [REFERENCE BILL INFORMATION, INCLUDING NUMBER] – Straws Upon Request. This bill requires businesses in [NAME OF LOCATION] to end the practice of automatically providing plastic straws and stirrers with beverages and provide straws to customers upon request only.

With 9 million metric tons of plastic entering the ocean each year, the world is facing a plastic pollution crisis that we must all do our part to solve.

Americans use more than 500 million plastic straws each day – enough to encircle the Earth two and a half times. Plastic straws are not recyclable in most places and they end up in our landfills, incinerators or littering our environment where they can persist for 200 or more years.

Plastic straws and stirrers are the 7th most commonly found plastic items in beach cleanups worldwide. Once littered in our oceans, they can kill sea creatures by becoming lodged in their nostrils, throats, and stomachs. Once plastic straws and stirrers exposed to sunlight, waves and wind begin to break down into smaller pieces, these “microplastics” particles can make their way easily into the bodies of plankton, fish, sea birds and other marine life. These tiny plastic particles are entering our food chain, with uncertain repercussions on human health, ecological health and even climate change.

Furthermore, many single-use plastic straws are made from polystyrene, the same material used to make “Styrofoam” which is considered a likely human carcinogen.

We call on the [NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] to enact Straws Upon Request in [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION].”