



All SWAB Testimony for the June 23, 2025 public hearing

Contracts Committee

The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens Solid Waste Advisory Boards continue to express our strong support for the reduction in the use of water that is bottled in single-use plastic, which, in turn, reduces a ubiquitous source of litter, plastic and microplastic waste, and pollution. Reducing the use of bottled water will reduce adverse impacts from single-use plastic waste and microplastics on environmental and public health. It also will reduce the costs to taxpayers of carting, processing, and exporting these discards. Reduction is a major strategy for achieving the requirements of NYC's Zero Waste Laws, and the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. NYC Council Legislation and City action that establish substantive pathways for the Reduction of waste are required now.





**Testimony of Alia Soomro, Deputy Director for New York City Policy
New York League of Conservation Voters
City Council Committee on Contracts
June 23, 2025**

My name is Alia Soomro and I am the Deputy Director for New York City Policy at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV is a statewide environmental advocacy organization representing over 30,000 members in New York City. Thank you, Chair Won and members of the Committee on Contracts for the opportunity to comment.

NYLCV supports the passage of Intro 741 of 2024, sponsored by Council Member Bottcher. This bill would prohibit city agencies from entering into or renewing contracts for the purchase of single-use plastic water containers or meals or refreshments that include such containers, with exceptions for protection of public health and safety, emergencies, or for contracts that were in existence before the bill's effective date.

Single-use plastic products, which are designed to be used once and thrown away afterwards, contribute to our reliance on fossil fuels and harm residents, local wildlife, and our waterways. For each ounce of polyethylene produced (the plastic most common for single-use plastics), one ounce of carbon dioxide is emitted. When plastics are sent to landfills—which are disproportionately located in low income and communities of color due to environmental racism—they take centuries to decompose.

NYLCV supports Intro 741 because it will mandate that the City leads by example by cutting down on the purchase of single use plastics products, bringing the City closer to reaching its zero waste by 2030 goal and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Consequently, this bill should also encourage New Yorkers to utilize more reusable bottles and cutlery.

We urge the City Council to approve Intro 741. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY SUPPORTING INTRO. 741
New York City Council Contracts Committee Hearing
June 24, 2025

My name is Jane Selden. I'm a retired CUNY lecturer and chair of 350NYC's waste reduction committee. As a climate activist group, we recognize that the world can't achieve its GHG emission reduction goals without seriously addressing the cradle-to-grave environmental impact of single-use plastic. If plastics were a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter of GHGs in the world. **The key to reducing the production of single-use plastic is to reduce the demand for it, which is why we fully support Int. 741, sponsored by Council Member Eric Bottcher.**

New Yorkers purchase – and discard – approximately five billion bottles of water a year. Only a very small percentage gets recycled; the current recycling rate for plastic is a dismal 6%. Most single-use plastic ends up being exported to landfill and incinerators at great expense to the city or as litter on our streets. More than just an eyesore, this litter clogs our drainage system, exacerbating the flooding on our streets and in our subways from torrential rainfalls, which will continue to increase in frequency as a result of global warming.

In addition, no government agency should be paying for water in a city that enjoys some of the highest quality tap water in the world. Recent studies have revealed that bottled water, on the other hand, contains significant levels of nano and microplastics that threaten our health. Of the approximately 16,000 chemicals found in plastic, an alarming number have been identified as carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.

Trucking bottled water long distances from states as far away as Maine is not only expensive but adds even more global warming gases to our endangered planet. Installing water fountains with bottle refill capacity is a financially beneficial, healthier, and eco-friendly alternative.

We look forward to this bill's passage.

Thank you.

Jane Selden
WasteNøt Committee, 350NYC



Testimony in favor of Intro 741-2024

My name is Eric Weltman, and I'm a Brooklyn-based senior organizer with Food & Water Watch.

Food & Water Watch's mission is to oppose corporate control and abuse of our most vital resources, and to ensure that the government fulfills its obligation to protect our health, communities, and environment.

So it's like this legislation was written for us because it strikes a blow against corporate ownership of water *and* at single-use plastics.

Every stage in the life-cycle of a plastic bottle – its production, transportation, use, and disposal – poses a threat to our health and environment.

And as New York makes strides towards moving off fossil fuels – banning fracked gas in new buildings, implementing Local Law 97 – we're facing the risk that the drilling and fracking will continue with more of the oil and gas used to produce plastics.

And when it comes to water bottled in plastic, we would like to briefly highlight the dangers of contamination from microplastics and nanoplastics.

Plastic bottles can leach hormone-disrupting chemicals known as phthalates into water, as well as tiny microplastics, which could damage organs and blood cells. Each liter of bottled water contains an average of 240,000 plastic particles.

About 90 percent of the plastics in bottled water are nanoplastics, which are as small as one-1,000th of the width of a strand of human hair. New research shows how these small particles are potentially more harmful than even microplastics for our health, being potentially small enough to enter our livers, brains, and blood — becoming more pervasive and disruptive within our bodies.

As a New Yorker, I'm proud of our water. It's safe, it's affordable, and it tastes great! Let's take back the tap from private water companies and the fossil fuel industry and continue to preserve, protect, and promote public water.

June 22, 2025

Subject: Support the Ban on City Agency Purchases of Single-Use Plastic Containers

Dear City Council Members/To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Allegra and I'm writing as a long-time New York City resident committed to environmental sustainability and public health. I urge you to support the proposed legislation (Council Member Erik Bottcher's bill, Int. 0741-2024) that would prohibit city agencies from purchasing single-use water containers.

City government should lead by example. Every day, agencies across NYC purchase plastic containers that are used once and discarded—contributing to the growing waste crisis, polluting our streets and waterways, and placing a long-term burden on our waste management systems. These plastics don't biodegrade; they break down into harmful microplastics that contaminate our food, water, and air. These plastics are already present in our water, our land, our food, and in our own bodies. Please do your part to stop the spread of this health crisis!

By restricting city procurement of single-use plastics, NYC would send a strong signal that our tax dollars should support sustainable, circular solutions—not disposable pollution. New York has always prided itself on leading by example, and this policy would encourage the shift toward compostable, refillable, and reusable systems that reduce waste and promote environmental justice.

Plastic pollution disproportionately affects low-income and frontline communities, where waste is often processed and incinerated. This legislation is a meaningful step toward aligning our city operations with its climate goals and equity commitments.

Please support this crucial legislation to ensure New York City's public institutions reflect the sustainable future we all deserve.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Allegra DeAngelo
Queens, New York

New York City Council

Please vote in favor of Int [Int. 741-2024](#). Our city is already drowning in single use plastic all over the streets, overflowing from trashcans and even from sanitation trucks that take away recyclables. Please do not renew any contracts with companies that sell single use plastic beverage containers, dishes etc except for in emergencies.

Plastic contains toxic chemicals that seep into food and water that we then eat and drink.

Thank you for making the city a healthier and more sustainable place for us and the coming generations.

Sincerely,

Anne Bassen

Member of Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board and concerned citizen

June 26, 2025

Irma Sanchez

[REDACTED]
New York City, New York 10075

[REDACTED]
Erik D. Bottcher
New York City Council District 3 Office
224 West 30th Street #1206
New York, NY 10001
(212)564-7757

RE: Testimony in support of Bill INT 0741-2024 Prohibiting New York City Agencies from Entering Into or Renewing Contracts for Single Use (Water/Meal/Refreshment) Containers

Dear Council Member Erik D. Bottcher,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed bill that would prohibit city agencies from entering into or renewing contracts for the purchase of single-use plastic water containers, or meals and refreshments that include such containers, except in cases involving public health, safety, emergencies, or pre-existing contracts.

This legislation is a significant and necessary step in our collective effort to reduce plastic pollution and its harmful impact on our environment and public health. Every year, millions of single-use plastic bottles are discarded, many of which end up in our waterways, parks, and neighborhoods. These plastics not only harm marine and wildlife ecosystems but also contribute to long-term environmental degradation and increase the city's waste management costs.

By restricting the use of single-use plastic containers in city contracts, we are setting a precedent for responsible, sustainable public procurement. Moreover, this bill reinforces our city's commitment to health, climate action, and zero-waste goals.

Importantly, the bill includes practical exceptions for public health, safety, emergencies, and legacy contracts, which ensures that critical services are not disrupted while still moving us toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

I commend the sponsors of this bill and urge the committee and the full legislative body to vote in favor of its passage. Let this be a model for how municipalities can lead by example in reducing plastic waste and promoting environmentally conscious policies.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Irma Sanchez

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INT:741

We ingest and consume the toxic chemicals added to plastic containers. A recent NY Times article wrote that with respect to ingesting microplastics “one of the most effective steps might simply be not drinking from plastic water bottles” ... NYC has a 2020 executive order to end unnecessary purchase of single-use plastic bottles by City agencies and reduce the sale of single-use plastic bottles (21 fluid ounces or less) on City property (Executive Order no. 54). The order is still in effect but could end if a Mayor refuses to enforce it. Passing this bill means that we prohibit plastic water bottles via government contracts -- for good -- keeping them out of city owned buildings, preventing agencies like schools, hospitals, and police stations, from distributing them to individuals under their care, and moving the City towards fulfilling its Zero Waste law. Note that AM Rosenthal and Senator Gounardes introduced a similar bill in the state legislature and Massachusetts passed a bill prohibiting purchase of single use plastic bottles in its agencies.

Joyce Bialik

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing in support of Council Member Bottcher's legislation Int. 741-2024 , which would reduce NYC's purchases of single use plastics. Int. 741-2024 will put NYC at the forefront of reducing the demand for single use plastic. Plastic production relies on fossil fuels- and is a major contributor to climate change which is affecting New Yorkers more and more through heatwaves, flooding, and poor air quality.

Please make this important step!

Lori Vroegindewey

Brooklyn, 11222

Hello. My name is Marc Schmied. As a Brooklynite who is concerned about climate change, I support Int. 741-2024 to help reduce plastic waste for the health of New Yorkers and our planet. Int. 741-2024 will put NYC at the forefront of reducing the demand for single use plastic production which relies on fossil fuels and thus is a major contributor to climate change.

Thank you.

I urge the council to adopt Int. 741-2024, which would reduce NYC's purchases of single-use plastics. The bill would prohibit city agencies from entering into or renewing contracts for the purchase of single-use plastic water containers or meals or refreshments that include such containers (except for emergencies).

Reducing plastic waste will improve the health of New Yorkers and the well-being of our planet, our only home. Every day we learn more about the dangers of microplastics to our health. These tiny particles penetrate our bodily systems and are found even in breast milk. Meanwhile, the manufacture of infinite plastic products is a threat to the environment and our climate.

New York has the best-tasting public water supply of any city I have ever visited. There's no reason to fill the pockets of companies hawking bottled water.

I urge the council to pass this common-sense legislation, for the sake of our health, our children, and the environment on which we all depend.

Sincerely,
Mimi Bluestone

To the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to voice my support for Int. 741-2204, which would prohibit city agencies from contracting to purchase single use plastic food or water containers. Plastic containers pollute our waterways and land. New York City pays to have it recycled, or, often, trashed in landfills. Within landfills, it can breakdown into microplastics that absorb more toxic contaminates and then leach into land and groundwater. Plastics rely on fossil fuels for their production, and so contributes to climate change.

New York City should stand as a national model and reject the use of single use plastics. Please move forward the passage of Intro 741-2204.

Sincerely,

Pauline Beam



Brooklyn, NY 11215

Stephanie Heintzeler

[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY 11201
[REDACTED]

Re: Support for Int. 741-2024 – Reducing Single-Use Plastic Waste in City Contracts

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Int. 741-2024, a crucial piece of legislation that would prohibit New York City agencies from entering into or renewing contracts for the purchase of single-use plastic water containers, or meals and refreshments that include such containers, except in emergency situations.

Single-use plastics—especially plastic water bottles—are a major source of environmental pollution and contribute significantly to the city's waste stream. By restricting their purchase and use by city agencies, this bill sets a meaningful precedent for responsible procurement and environmental stewardship. It also aligns New York City with broader sustainability goals and zero-waste initiatives.

This legislation is a common-sense step toward reducing plastic pollution, protecting our waterways, and modeling eco-conscious behavior for residents and private entities alike. With climate change and plastic waste posing increasing threats to urban environments, it is imperative that public institutions lead by example.

I applaud the Council for considering this forward-looking policy and urge you to pass Int. 741-2024 without delay. Our city must continue to take bold, actionable steps toward a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Heintzeler

I am a Mom, a building manager and a community member in Crown Heights and I am strongly in favor of Int. 741-2024 to help reduce plastic waste in NYC. It is critical that the City put it's money where it's mouth is to get closer to Zero waste goals by 2030 and reduce single-use plastic whenever possible. This bill will get us closer to our Zero waste goals by prohibiting city agencies from entering into or renewing contracts for the purchase of single-use plastic water containers or meals or refreshments that include such containers (except for emergencies). We all know that only 8% of plastic is recycled. Int. 741-2024 will steer NYC purchasing power toward materials like glass,aluminum and paper that have a market as recycled products and require less toxic chemicals to be produced.

Reducing NYC's demand for single use plastic will improve the health of New Yorkers and our planet. This will improve human health by reducing the amount of plastic we eat and drink from, which in many cases can leach toxic chemicals into our bodies and cause health problems. Int. 741-2024 will put NYC at the forefront of reducing the demand for single use plastic. Plastic production relies on fossil fuels- and is a major contributor to climate change (read: heat waves). Int. 741-2024 puts on the right road to reduction. For all of these reasons I support Int. 741-2024.

Sincerely,

Susan boyle

I am writing in support of Intro 0741-2024, that will prohibit city agencies from buying single-use water containers.

As an advocate for reducing solid waste, I urge the Council to facilitate ways to limit New Yorkers' reliance on single use items, particularly those made of plastic. Our streets and waterways are awash in trash. In the next twenty years, New York State's landfills are scheduled to reach their limit and alternate sites will have to be found. A partial answer to this problem must be to reduce the amount of waste we create.

The city will save money by switching to procuring only large water coolers for offices, clinics and public spaces. Last fall I retired from my social work position at one of the city's public hospitals where I worked in the cancer clinic. During the pandemic, the clinic started giving out 8 ounce containers of water to patients and last summer decided to stop the practice, mainly to save money. I noticed the unit clerks had a hard time with this. They didn't understand why providing water should be stopped. The clinic's chief nurse pointed out that it had never been done before the pandemic and patients managed. I don't recall if there were water fountains in the clinics. There was bottled water for sale in vending machines. My point is that people get used to having things given to them and sometime don't like it when it is taken away. But they adjust - alternatives are found, money is saved. In the case of plastic water bottles, health risks may be reduced as well.

We learn more each day about the dangers of plastic. In water bottles, the plastic degrades into micro and nanoplastics and contaminates the water. Scientists report finding plastic particles in human tissue and even in the air we breathe. We need to back out of the relentless production of plastic.

My hope in passing this bill is the city will make a statement that plastic bottles should be avoided because they are a risk to health. Maybe this message will extend to vending companies to change their containers. Maybe the city will install more bottle refill stations across the city so all New Yorkers can have access to water in public places. New Yorkers, including city workers, need to carry their own bottles, preferably reusable, when they go out.

Thank you for your attention.

The Hydration for all Act would send a message to all New Yorkers that the city cares about the health and quality of life of its residents. Placing convenient refillable water stations in all boroughs encourages use of reusable water bottles and reduces reliance on plastic bottles of water.

When Columbia scientists discovered thousands of nanoplastics in a single plastic water bottle It was a call to action. More and more studies show that consumption of nanoplastics is detrimental to our health.

Passing the Hydration for All act would reduce citizens exposure to the toxic chemicals in a plastic bottle and cut down on the waste created by their haphazard disposal.

Don't hesitate. Pass The Hydration for All Act Now.