




MEMORANDUM FOR: Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
Environmental Observation and Prediction  
Performing the duties of  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere

AUG 22 2019

FROM: Nicole R. LeBoeuf   
Acting Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Letter of concern about the world's plastics pollution problem

Name(s) of Person(s) Requesting Action:

- Senator Tom Udall
- Representative Alan Lowenthal

Subject/Issues Raised by Person(s) Requesting Action(s):

- The members of Congress are requesting that federal agencies develop an interagency research and response plan for addressing mismanaged plastic waste.
- The letter discusses the plastic waste problem, specifically focusing on single-use items and the inability of the current waste management infrastructure to address the proliferation of plastic waste being generated in the United States and abroad.
- The letter requests that the Administration develop a well-funded research plan that includes NOAA and several other agencies to address the domestic and international plastic pollution crisis.

Major Points in the Action:

- The response letter thanks the members of Congress for their interest in this issue and discusses the impacts of plastic trash on the marine environment.
- The response provides an overview of what NOAA's Marine Debris Program is doing to address the problem through its research and prevention efforts.
- The response discusses the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee and the National Science and Technology Council plastic pollution section for its 2018 Decadal Vision for America's oceans.

Potential Controversy:

- None.

Other Pertinent Information:

- None.

