

## PETITIONS 101

One of the most powerful ways to show support for a policy to reduce plastic pollution is to gather petition signatures. Presenting a successful petition to local legislators and other decision makers can be very influential. A good petition should clearly state the position you are taking and gather important identifying information from supporters—like name, ZIP code, and some form of contact information. See the example petition below for an idea of how to create your own.

### Example petition:

Researchers have found that nearly 10,000 metric tons—or 22 million pounds—of plastic debris enter the Great Lakes every year from the United States and Canada. What’s worse, plastic never really goes away; it just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Tiny pieces of plastic smaller than 2.5 mm have been found in the Great Lakes with concentrations as high as 1 million particles per square kilometer. These microplastics have been found in drinking water and even beer. Many microplastics are fragments of larger, single-use plastic items like single-use plastic bags and foam containers. These items litter our shorelines and beaches, they can be ingested by wildlife, and can even enter our drinking water. Communities across the Great Lakes are taking action to stop plastic pollution, and it’s time we join them. Our local waterways are an essential part of our local environment and economy. They are too precious to pollute with plastic. We the undersigned urge [insert legislator, municipality, etc.] to support a [plastic bag ban/microfilters in washing machines, etc.] in [your city/municipality/state].

| NAME (FIRST, LAST) | ZIP CODE | PHONE NUMBER | EMAIL ADDRESS |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. _____           |          |              |               |
| 2. _____           |          |              |               |
| 3. _____           |          |              |               |
| 4. _____           |          |              |               |
| 5. _____           |          |              |               |