UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 1, 2022

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND
POLLUTION PREVENTION

Sarah Paiji Yoo
Blueland
104 W 27th Street 7th Fl
New York, NY 10001

Dianna Cohen
Plastic Pollution Coalition
4401A Connecticut Avenue NW #143
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ms. Paiji Yoo and Ms. Cohen:

I am writing to confirm that on November 14, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received your petition, submitted on behalf of Blueland, Plastic Pollution Coalition, and your partners including Beyond Plastics, Plastic Oceans International, The Shaw Institute, Lonely Whale, 5 Gyres, GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives), Oceanic Global Foundation, The Last Beach Cleanup, Rio Grande International Study Center, Inland Ocean Coalition, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Turtle Island Restoration Network, Friends of the Earth, Surfrider, and Made Safe.

The petition requests (under TSCA section 21) that "EPA require health and environmental safety tests under the Toxic Substances Control Act" on polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and "ultimately regulate PVA [polyvinyl alcohol] as a toxic substance, pending the results from testing." The petition also requests (under the APA) that "PVA be removed from the EPA Safer Choice List and Safer Chemical Lists" until the requested testing is complete.

Consistent with TSCA section 21 and APA section 553(e), EPA is considering this petition. TSCA section 21 provides that any person may petition the EPA Administrator to initiate a proceeding for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule under TSCA section 4, 6 or 8 or an order under TSCA section 4 or 5(e), (f). TSCA section 21 further provides that EPA shall either grant or deny such petition within 90 days after the date of filing. If the Administrator grants the petition, the Administrator shall promptly commence an appropriate proceeding. If the Administrator denies the petition, the Administrator shall publish the reasons for such a denial in the Federal Register. The above-mentioned petition is under review by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), which is responsible for programs under TSCA and the Safer Choice program.

If you have any questions relating to your petition, feel free to contact Brian Barone of my staff at (202) 566-0233 or barone.brian@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

DENISE KEEHNER

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Date: 2022.12.01 17:18:02 -05'00'

Denise Keehner
Director
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics