



Dear Environmental Protection Agency,

August 31, 2026

On behalf of the undersigned business leaders in the Great Lakes region, the Great Lakes Business Network (GLBN) urges the EPA to include microplastics in the Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR6).

The GLBN unites more than 240 business owners across eight Great Lakes states and Ontario, Canada to advocate for thriving ecosystems, economies, and communities. Businesses rely on the pristine Great Lakes to attract tourism, boost recreation, and maintain healthy wildlife populations. The Great Lakes sustain a \$1 trillion blue economy that supports over 890,000 jobs, contain 84% of North America's fresh surface water, and provide drinking water for over 30 million people. Clean and healthy Great Lakes are essential to the prosperity of the regional economy. Microplastics have been found in every Great Lake, which puts businesses, wildlife, and communities at risk.

Great Lakes business owners recognize microplastics as an urgent threat to their bottom line, reporting an average concern of 4.8/5 in a [recent member poll](#). Urgent action is needed. Microplastics have been linked to cancer, infertility, kidney disease, and inflammation, posing the greatest risk to children. Microplastics also threaten wildlife, causing impaired memory, thin eggshells, and decreased survival rates in fish.

Microplastics are small particles that pose a monumental risk. Including microplastics on the CCL6 is an important first step to regulating this contaminant, but more action and research are needed to address this threat. We urge the EPA to use the CCL6 designation as a launch point to begin the robust process of validating methods for microplastics in drinking water. This will provide the necessary baseline and data so that methods will be readily available when the EPA is determining the unregulated contaminant list for the UCMR7.

We cannot wait five years or more to get the information we need to address microplastic contamination in drinking water. Thank you for considering this input and request.

Sincerely,

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