



May 3, 2021

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, M.P.  
Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development  
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

by email to: [ENVI@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ENVI@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Scarpaleggia

**RE: Study on Single-Use Plastics**

Cannery Brewing is a craft brewery based in Penticton, British Columbia. We just recently celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have seen a number of changes and growth in the craft beer industry during these last two decades and we are proud to be a part of this vibrant industry.

We have always made efforts to be as sustainable as possible. For example:

- We keep as much of our spent grain out of the landfill as possible, by partnering with farmers to use it as feed for their animals
- We recycle our damaged aluminum cans
- We re-use boxes and flats again for customers to take their purchases home, and/or where necessary we use brown paper bags
- We use paper straws in our drinks when a straw is required
- We use our own packaging containers, boxes and flats for food distribution where possible

With the upcoming ban on single-use plastic items, we do have some questions on the six-pack ring being banned.

The six-pack yoke/ring is a functional co-packing tool that is used when packaging single cans into the six-pack selling unit. At this point, there are not other cost-effective and functional replacements for this product.

We do use plastic multipack handles (ie. [https://paktech-opi.com/handles/?category=can\\_handles](https://paktech-opi.com/handles/?category=can_handles) ) which are made with recycled plastic and which are recyclable. While these are not currently included in the list of single-use plastic items which will be banned, we wonder about the long-term use of these, as they are still single-use plastic items. Do you anticipate these will be classified as single-use plastic and banned in the future?

To deal with these impending changes, we have seen some breweries move from the six-pack yoke/ring and/or the plastic multipack handles to cardboard boxes. Because these are now both functional in terms of co-packing, but also serve as a marketing tool, we have seen a simple co-packing tool become one that is branded, embossed, foiled, laminated, glossed or matte finished and more. We wonder about the environmental impact of such a move, and wonder if the environmental impact of producing single-use cardboard boxes that will go into recycling after one use is better or worse for the environment than the small bit of plastic used in the six-pack yoke/ring and the plastic multipack handles.

As an industry, we would appreciate some additional clarity on the process for banning 6-pack yoke/rings, the long-term use of the plastic multipack handles, and the environmental implications to the move from these single-use plastics to printed cardboard boxes. We are also wondering if there are any incentives to manufacturers to produce more environmentally friendly functional co-packing tools.

We would also appreciate further clarity on the timelines for the ban and how long we have to make changes to our co-packing materials.

We are committed to being as sustainable as possible and to evolving our business practices to meet these changes. We thank you in advance for your consideration of this topic. Please feel free to call me or email me with any questions or follow-ups.

Sincerely,

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