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Mary-Ellen Deily, Health and Science Editor, Washington Post

Stephen Smith, Health and Science Editor, Washington Post

Ginger Cowles, Managing Editor, Consumer Reports

Kevin Loria, Health Writer, Consumer Reports

Mses. Cowles and Deily and Messrs. Loria and Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) regarding the *Consumer Reports* article "What to know about microplastics, phthalates, BPA and PFAS," which was published on the Washington Post website

(<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2024/11/18/microplastics-phthalates-bpa-pfas-health/>). We request that the following clarification be made to help ensure your readers are not confused by this story.

When discussing bisphenol-A (BPA), your article includes the following sentence: "If you look for a plastic water bottle, baby bottle or similar product now, you may see some advertised as 'BPA-free.'" We request that you add the word "refillable" before the word "plastic" and delete the word "water."

We make this request to help ensure your readers understand that you are referring to empty containers manufactured from rigid plastic and made to be refilled with the owner's preferred beverage (e.g., water or juice), usually used while on the go, such as at the gym or during outdoor activities. This distinction will help clarify for readers that you are not discussing plastic bottled water bottles. Most bottled water and soda companies use polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic for their containers, particularly the 16.9-ounce/half-liter size option. PET plastic does not contain BPA.

You can learn more from this third-party source: <https://petresin.org/plastics-manufacturers-reconfirm-pet-bottles-do-not-contain-bpa/>.

As the trade association representing the bottled water industry, IBWA works with media outlets to help ensure the information in their stories is based on science and facts. Thus,

we request that you update your online article to reflect the facts we've provided so that your readers can have the most accurate information about bottled water.

Sincerely,

Jill Culora

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Vice President Communications
International Bottled Water Association

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