



1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-647-4609
jculora@bottledwater.org
www.bottledwater.org

March 21, 2025

Ariel Abergel – Producer
AJ Hall – Producer
Will Cain – Co-host
Ainsley Earhardt – Co-host
Brian Kilmeade – Co-host
Rachel Rea – Executive Producer
Fox & Friends
Fox News Channel
1211 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10036

Dear Producers and Hosts:

I am writing on behalf of the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) regarding your Fox & Friends segment titled “Study shows increasing link between microplastics and dementia” (<https://www.foxnews.com/video/6370144544112>) published on FoxNews.com on March 17, 2025. This interview contains numerous false statements about bottled water, and we request that the online segment be updated so your viewers are not misled about this safe, healthy, and convenient consumer product.

- Bottled water containers are NOT a major source of microplastics. Bottled water is just one of thousands of food and beverage products (including soft drinks and juices) packaged in plastic. While many studies on micro- and nanoparticles have used water samples (tap and bottled), it is important to understand that researchers use water because it is the least complex testing medium. Conclusions that drinking water is a major route for oral intake of micro- and nanoplastics are not justified based on the current science available.
- According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) webpage on microplastics, there are currently [no certified testing methods and no scientific consensus](#) on the potential health impacts of micro- and nanoplastics.
- The FDA told Fox News [“it is not aware of scientific evidence that would support consumers being concerned about the potential level of microplastic or nanoplastic contamination in food, including bottled water.”](#)

- The study mentioned in the segment regarding eating a credit card's worth of plastic every week was found to have a serious math error. Scientists said the correct timeframe is not one week but rather every 23,000 years – a very big difference. A 2022 article published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials Letters, [“Ingested microplastics: Do humans eat one credit card per week?,”](#) explains the calculation's “severe errors,” and notes that “great care must be taken when combining microplastic data of different measurements.”
- FDA sets rules and guidelines regarding appropriate packaging material composition, properties, and uses for food contact. Packaging materials that meet FDA standards are considered FDA compliant and safe for use as a packaging material that comes into contact with food. FDA has determined that containers used by the bottled water industry are safe for use with food and beverage products—including bottled water—and they do not pose a health risk to consumers. FDA's safety criteria require extensive toxicity testing for any substance that may be ingested at more than negligible levels. That means the FDA has affirmatively determined that, when plastics are used as intended in food-contact applications, the nature and amounts of substances that may migrate, if any, are safe.
- The caption that appears in the chyron — “Data: Plastic from water bottles found in brains”—is completely false. [“Bioaccumulation of microplastics in decedent human brains,”](#) the research paper that Dr. Marc Siegel speculates upon, doesn't mention bottled water.
- Regarding potential links to health impacts of ingesting plastic nano- and microparticles, independent scientist Chris DeArmitt, PhD, FRSC FIMMM, cautions people to remember that when they hear the word “linked,” that does not mean causation, giving the example of how both ice cream sales and shark attacks increase in summer months, but have nothing to do with each other. [Read more here.](#)
- There is, however, scientific consensus that there is no credible evidence of microplastic ingestion causing health threats. “Most scientific studies (67%) frame microplastics risks as hypothetical or uncertain, while 24% present them as established. In contrast, most media articles reporting on microplastic impacts (93%) imply that risks of microplastics exist and harmful consequences are highly probable,” in [“On the Creation of Risk: Framing of Microplastics Risks in Science and Media.”](#)
- Because there is no scientific consensus on the potential health impacts of nano- and microplastic particles, media reports about these particles in drinking water (and food) do nothing more than unnecessarily scare consumers.

We request that you update your online segment, so your viewers have the facts regarding these important issues. We are concerned that misleading the public about the safety and quality of bottled water could deter them from drinking the healthiest packaged beverage on the shelf: bottled water. In 2024, bottled water

retained its title as America's favorite packaged beverage for the ninth year in a row.

Americans are making great efforts to live a better lifestyle by choosing healthier foods and beverages, and drinking water—tap, bottled, or filtered—should be encouraged. With the high rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease in our on-the-go society, bottled water provides a safe, healthy, and convenient beverage choice. Discouraging people from choosing this healthy drink option is not in the public interest.

Sincerely,



Jill Culora
Vice President Communications
International Bottled Water Association

Sent by email to:

ariel.abergel@foxnews.com
will.cain@foxnews.com
hello@ainsleye.com
newsmanager@foxnews.com
brian.kilmeade@foxnews.com
rachel.rea@foxnews.com