

January 4, 2019

Nestle USA
1812 N Moore Street
Arlington, VA 22209

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a recent and longtime consumer of Lean Cuisine, which I now understand is owned by Nestle. I am writing to ask you to change your packaging for the good of the environment.

One of your entrees, "Glazed Chicken with Vegetable Rice," has been in my repertoire for decades. I first enjoyed this dish after I gave birth to my first child in the 1980s. Through the years, when I have looked for convenient ways to restrict calories, I have relied on Lean Cuisine.

However, Lean Cuisine products are packaged in plastic trays. According to your own website, these trays are made from polyethylene terephthalate, for which there is no longer a recycling market.

Because of the plastic packaging, I am saddened to say that I must boycott Lean Cuisine, and I will encourage others to do the same through my blog and social media. I will again consume Lean Cuisine once you find a sustainable tray option.

Plastic is a finite resource made from petroleum. It contains many chemicals, and these chemicals and the resulting plastic waste have taken a huge toll on our environment. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is one of several plastic-soup gyres that are overtaking our oceans and contributing to the formation of a geologic epoch currently under consideration by world scientific authorities known as the Anthropocene. Indeed, this plastic has been found embedded in arctic ice, and microplastics have been observed in the guts of animals, and in humans.

Nestle is a giant in the food industry. You have the power to affect broad, global change. You have demonstrated that power, unfortunately, in some not-so-savory ways, such as your entry into third-world countries with low-quality junk food. I am also not enamored of your bottled water business, which is located here in Indiana. Bottles that have contained water are among the most common items trashing our oceans and contributing to the worldwide health issues posed by plastic waste and microplastics.

I'm hoping you will heed this letter and begin a conversation in your company about how Nestle USA can be better stewards of our planet. Because in the final analysis, it won't matter how much money you make if you have been instrumental in ruining the environment.

I appreciate your time and attention. I will follow up with you to see if my suggestions are being considered.

Respectfully,

Kelly Jones Sharp