



January 17, 2020

Mr. Thomas Feyer  
Letters Editor  
*The New York Times Company*  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

Dear Mr. Feyer:

*The New York Times'* on January 15 ClimateFwd article [“One Thing We can Do: Fix Recycling”](#) by Eduardo Garcia did not recognize the metal can is the part of the recycling system that doesn't need fixing. The aluminum and steel can is easy to sort, valuable and has a high recycling rate.

Can manufacturers use these infinitely recyclable materials to make steel food cans and aluminum beverage cans. Aluminum and steel cans are accepted everywhere, and they are simple to recycle since the whole container is recyclable. Metal cans are valuable and there is an existing circular system for them in the United States. Recyclers want the aluminum and steel in cans because they are two of the most valuable materials in the recycling stream. That is why the average beverage can has 73 percent recycled content and the average steel can has around 35 percent recycled content. Cans are recycled at scale today; according to the Aluminum Association there is a 50 percent recycling rate for aluminum beverage cans and the Environmental Protection Agency states a 71 percent recycling rate for steel food cans. The can industry buys the materials and recycles them into new cans or other useful, recyclable products.

We encourage *The New York Times* to please mention metal cans as the existing, at scale circular recycling system in future articles.

Sincerely,

Scott Breen  
Vice President of Sustainability  
Can Manufacturers Institute