

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 13, 2022

Jon R. Moeller
Chief Executive Officer
Procter & Gamble
701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C, 20004

Dear Jon R. Moeller,

I am writing to you today to urge you to take quick action to address the tampon shortage that people are facing across the country. In recent days I have seen troubling reports about low supplies and even empty shelves of tampons – as well as concerning indications that instead of increasing supply, companies have increased tampon prices. Companies like yours that produce tampons must take immediate action to increase the tampon supply and end unnecessary price increases.

Recent public reports of the tampon shortage are very troubling. Due to the lack of official data on this shortage, the only available information comes from anecdotal reports. These stories indicate that people are checking multiple stores, in person and online, to no avail. In a [Time](#) article published last week, a journalist shared that she couldn't find tampons in multiple states. An organization that provides menstrual hygiene products for people experiencing homelessness has received half as many tampon donations as last year, leaving their warehouse nearly empty. A radio reporter in Montana [shared](#) that there have been “nearly empty shelves for a few months now, and even big online retailers such as Boxed.com have been out of stock FOR WEEKS.” People are calling friends and family across state lines to see if supply is available elsewhere.

While the tampon shortage is part of a larger supply chain issue, price gouging essential products is an unacceptable response. [Tampon](#) prices are up 10 percent from a year ago. In January, the [Time](#) reporter saw Amazon sellers listing one box of 18 Tampax for \$114, \$6 more per tampon than the usual cost. Reports indicate that people are still seeing significant mark-ups months after the shortage began. Companies have [increased](#) prices on menstrual hygiene products, in some cases multiple times, since the shortage began. Yet they have also posted significant profits – for example, Procter & Gamble posted its [biggest sales gain](#) in decades, and the amount of money made from sales in the feminine care division went up 10 percent.

Access to menstrual products should be treated like every other essential good. At the beginning of the pandemic, price gouging of essentials like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer was rightly criticized as an exploitation of an emergency for financial gain. Menstrual products should receive that same consideration.

Please respond no later than Friday, June 17 with information about how you are planning to increase the supply of tampons as well as justifications for the price increases that we have seen over the past year.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator