

SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG POLICY

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Pete Stauffer	4001 SE Ivan St Portland 97202	pstauff@aol.com
✓ Tara Gallagher	8228 SE 8th Ave, Portland 97202	tara.gallagher84@gmail.com
✓ <del>Erin Parker</del>	P.O. Box 13503 97213	
✓ Brock Howell	1586 SE 11th Ave 97214	brock@environmentoregon.org
✓ Paige Watkins	1905 NE 151st ave 98684	paigewatkinsduvak@gmail.com
✓ Tristan Fields	1205 SW Cardinell Dr #108	tristan.fields@gmail.com

**Subject: Testimony to the Portland City Council on the resolution to ban plastic bags and charge for paper carry out paper bags July 28, 2010**

With your zeal to ban plastic bags, not only are you growing the cloud of shady socialism that now hangs over City Hall, but you are once again only listening to and catering to the special interests of your inner circles with yet another piece of your single purpose and obsessive social engineering agenda that aims to control and dictate lifestyles - be it what kind of housing people live in, how people sort their garbage, what type of transport method people use, how they cross the Columbia, what people eat, and now, how they bring those groceries home. Poll after poll has shown the majority of mainstream Portlanders do not support a ban on plastic bags.

Portland is already well known for its anti-business climate. A ban on plastic bags and requiring a minimum fee for paper carryout bags - which is "price fixing" by the government - only adds to that negative business climate. Furthermore, passing this type of legislation will make it easier for shoplifters, increase the cost of living for many people, and will eliminate private sector jobs thereby adding to an already high unemployment rate as many of your previous social engineering policies have already accomplished. If litter is the problem, then set up a recycle program for people to turn in plastic bags and get paid for it.

Having to either bring your own carryout bag or pay for a courtesy bag every time a person goes into a retail store is a bunch of crapola. Cloth bags are inconvenient and not always sanitary. Calling plastic bags a single use product is narrow minded and erroneous. The protesters have proved the latter point demonstrating plastic bags are a multi-use product by wearing them as clothing. A cigarette is a single use product - and there are far more butts on the streets than plastic bags. Likewise, if plastic bags are banned, there will likely be more dog doo on the streets too - however, that should be OK with organic advocates.

Additionally, having Fred Meyer doing an about face so quickly clearly gives the appearance of a concealed back room agreement whereby Freddy's has been offered a non-transparent deal for their support. Portland city government is fast becoming fiscally irresponsible to the people it is supposed to serve, while at the same time, dismissing the negative aspects of those actions as they apply to taxpayers and the economy.

Specifically targeting chain stores for a ban visibly makes it evident Portland city government is also outwardly practicing its own form of discrimination. All this social engineering openly demonstrates mainstream Portlanders can no longer trust the City Council to represent them or the inherent freedom of choice principals this country was founded upon.

Finally, if you are so self-confident the populace will support this type of legislation; then at the very least, back that confidence up by adding an amendment to your resolution that requires any kind of plastic bag ban and/or minimum carryout bag fee to be refereed to people for their up or down vote. Not doing so basically indicates a dictatorial deception is in process.

Respectfully,

Terry Parker





**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**36804**

July 28, 2010

Mayor Adams and Portland Commissioners:

Thank you for your endorsement of the state's effort to clean Oregon's beaches, rivers and roadsides. Plastic bags account for one of the largest segments of litter in Oregon. Anyone who's worked on a SOLV beach clean-up knows this all too well; twelve percent of the garbage collected on those clean-ups is plastic bags.

The last time Oregon's litter problem was this bad, Oregon responded with the Bottle Bill. Since then, our roadsides and beaches have been free of beer cans and pop bottles. And Oregon has led the nation in recycling. But those same roadsides and beaches have become refuge for non-biodegradable bags.

Oregon grocers, paper manufacturers, recyclers and many, many businesses support a statewide ban on plastic bags. In addition, republican and democratic legislators from urban and rural areas are united in support of this legislation. With the City of Portland on board, the coalition is now even stronger.

These plastic bags blow through the countryside, hang in trees, float along roadways, clog recycling machines, pollute our rivers, defile our beaches and often end up in the ocean. In short, they don't respect city boundaries.

You could have been the first to plant a flag on this ground. Your thoughtfulness and restraint to make way for a statewide solution shows genuine leadership.

Thank you.

Sen. Mark Hass

Sen. Jackie Dingfelder

Rep. Ben Cannon

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** richard\_hodges@juno.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 2:53 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** richard\_hodges@juno.com; wdatj@juno.com; wrhodges@juno.com  
**Subject:** Fw: RE: Bag Proposal Testimony

This is the revised version of what I sent the city to be included as testimony in the record.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Moore-Love, Karla" <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>  
 To: "richard\_hodges@juno.com" <richard\_hodges@juno.com>  
 Cc: "wdatj@juno.com" <wdatj@juno.com>, "wrhodges@juno.com" <wrhodges@juno.com>  
 Subject: RE: Bag Proposal Testimony  
 Date: Tue, 27 Jul 2010 11:14:38 -0700

Dear Mr. Hodges,

I have received your testimony for tomorrow's Portland City Council Agenda item no. 1085 and will forward it to all members of the City Council and the appropriate City staff person.

Regards,  
 Karla

Karla Moore-Love  
 Council Clerk  
 City of Portland - Office of the City Auditor  
 1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140  
 Portland, OR 97204-1900  
 voice 503.823.4086 fax 503.823.4571  
 Clerk's Webpage: <http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=26979>

-----Original Message-----

From: richard\_hodges@juno.com [mailto:richard\_hodges@juno.com]  
 Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 11:09 AM  
 To: Moore-Love, Karla  
 Cc: richard\_hodges@juno.com; wdatj@juno.com; wrhodges@juno.com  
 Subject: Bag Proposal Testimony

Any law or rule will eliminate some freedom of choice for the sake of gaining freedom from the consequences of such choice. Also, any regulation should result in a significant increase, and not decrease, in freedom. Otherwise, the people end up getting micro-managed over every little thing. Therefore, the proposal to eliminate the choice of shoppers to use plastic bags at checkout should not be enacted.

The positives of this proposal are negligible and over exaggerated at best. I'm not saying that a plastic bag hasn't killed a fish or a bird, but it's rare. I often go out on the sloughs, lakes and rivers and have never seen any evidence of any wildlife being hurt by these bags. My observation is that there's really not a lot of these bags to be found in or out of the city. Often when I go for a walk or a run, I'll find some returnable cans and bottles on the street, but have a hard time finding a discarded plastic bag to put them in. On July 16th, I did an experiment where I walked the two miles home from work that I normally do on my bike. I looked to see how many of these bags that I could find. I looked high and low, down side streets, at trees and bushes, in parking lots etc., but found only one bag. People are very good at properly disposing of these bags. Some end up being recycled at the stores where they came from, even though almost all could be recycled if the city came up with a provision for accomplishing this. Since the city has failed to come up with a system to recycle them, most end up in the land fill. However, they don't take up much room in the landfill, since they're so flimsy and are easily compressed by all of the weight above them. They don't decompose quickly in the landfill, but so does nothing else, with no water or air to work with. I remember a few years ago, where an archaeologist dug up a 75 year old newspaper out of a land fill, and sat there and read it, apparently it being in about the same condition that it was when put there 75 years earlier.

The positives of maintaining the current choice of plastic bags at checkout are many. I like the convenience of being

able to not have to carry around the bulkier reusable bags, especially not knowing how many I'll need. When going to the store, one needs the flexibility to buy more than planned for. When comparing plastic to paper, a person can carry more with plastic, especially when walking home or on a bike. I put the plastic bags holding my purchases from the store on my handle bars, along with my food and other things that I transport to and from work and other places. With plastic, your arms can hang straight down to your sides when walking, which is much easier than with paper, where your arms have to be held at a right angle at the elbow. If this inexpensive bag gets dirty or damaged, I just grab another one that I have in a box and eventually recycle the replaced one if possible. I store my ice cream in a plastic grocery bag in the freezer, which keeps it fresher. I also use a plastic store bag to put used cat litter in before disposal. Many people use these bags to pick up after their dogs when taking their dogs on a walk outside.

I urge no passage of this proposal, since it will accomplish little to nothing, and will be a hardship and an inconvenience to all, especially those of little means.

Thank You,

Richard W. Hodges

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** richard\_hodges@juno.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2010 11:09 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** richard\_hodges@juno.com; wdatj@juno.com; wrhodges@juno.com  
**Subject:** Bag Proposal Testimony

Any law or rule will eliminate some freedom of choice for the sake of gaining freedom from the consequences of such choice. Also, any regulation should result in a significant difference to the positive, as far as increased versus decreased freedom is concerned, or one ends up with the negative micro-management of the people. Therefore, the proposal to eliminate the choice of shoppers to use plastic bags at checkout should not be enacted.

The positives of this proposal are negligible at best, and over exaggerated at worst. I'm not saying that a plastic bag hasn't killed a fish or a bird, but it's rare. I often go out on the sloughs, lakes and rivers and have never seen any evidence of any wildlife being hurt by these bags. My observation is, that there's really not a lot of these bags to be found in or out of the city. Often when I go for a walk or a run, I'll find some returnable cans and bottles on the street, but have a hard time finding a discarded plastic bag to put them in. On July 16th, I did an experiment where I walked the two miles home from work that I normally do on my bike, where I looked to see how many of the bags that I could find. I looked high and low, down side streets, at trees and bushes, in parking lots etc., but found only one bag. People are very good at properly disposing these bags. Some end up being recycled at the stores where they came from, even though almost all could be recycled if the city came up with a provision for accomplishing this. Since the city has failed to come up with a system to recycle them, most end up in the land fill. However, they don't take up much room in the landfill, since they're so flimsy and are easily compressed by all of the weight above them. They don't decompose quickly in the landfill, but so does nothing else, with no water or air to work with. I remember a few years ago, where an archaeologist dug up a 75 year old newspaper out of a land fill, and sat there and read it, as it was in the same condition that it was when put there 75 years earlier.

The positives of maintaining the current choice of plastic bags at checkout are many. I like the the convenience of being able to not have to carry around bulkier reusable bags, especially not knowing how many I'll need. One needs flexibility to buy more than planned for. When comparing plastic to paper, a person can carry more with plastic, especially when walking home or on a bike. I put the plastic bags holding my purchases on my handle bars. With plastic, your arms can hang straight down to your sides when walking, which is much easier than with paper, where your arms have to be held at a right angle. I also use the bags to transport my food and things on my handle bars on my bike to and from work and other places. If this inexpensive bag gets damaged, I just grab another one that I have in a box and eventually recycle the damaged one if possible. My family stores ice cream in one of these bags, before putting it in the freezer, which keeps it fresher. We also use a plastic store bag to put cat litter in when cleaning out the cat litter box. Many people use these bags to pick up after their dogs when taking their dogs on a walk outside.

I urge no passage of this proposal, since it will accomplish little to nothing, and will be a hardship and an inconvenience to all, especially those of little means.

Thank You,

Richard W. Hodges

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Margaret Hardy [hardy.mp@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 10:12 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban

Dear Council Clerk Moore-Love, and Members of the City Council,

I am a resident of Portland, and would like to offer my comments on the draft ordinance banning plastic bags. I would like to ask that the council not ban plastic bags or place an additional cost on paper bags.

It would put a burden on those of us who try to shop in bulk. I often cooperate with others to buy large quantities of items, and it is simply very difficult to bring enough reusable bags when you are shopping for more than just one person.

And even when I'm just buying a few things, it is problematic to carry items - especially non-pre-packaged items like produce - when I walk or bicycle to the store and don't bring enough additional bags. I found this out when I lived as a student in Europe, in an area with a similar policy. If I walked to the store and saw that apples were in season, for example, it was rather tricky to buy a bagful without having planned it all ahead. This was bad for me, because I was less likely to buy unwieldy -but healthy- produce. But it was also bad for the businesses I frequented, since they didn't sell as many of their perishable goods. It is easy to say that I could just buy some extra reusable bags at the store, but for some of us, those kinds of small costs have a real impact on what else we can afford to buy.

I see in the draft proposal that there is the possibility of providing reusable bags for "interested Portland residents" as well as low-income residents. I wonder how much this will cost. And although of course I'd like to have a shiny new shopping bag, this all also takes planning and time, and frankly, as someone with a full-time job and volunteer and family responsibilities, I think it is unlikely I will have extra time to spend on perfecting my bags-to-groceries-ratio skills. I am also somewhat worried about the health implications of using possibly germ-laden reusable grocery bags to carry both meat/dairy products and produce.

So, if it is not possible for my family to get plastic bags and paper bags are an extra cost, I have to admit that we will be more likely to try to take at least our bulk shopping elsewhere, simply to avoid the hassle.

All of the above are practical consequences of the law that I can realistically see. However, there is also the philosophical side to it. It seems like a good rule that people's free choice should not be abridged without some very strong beneficial reasons for the abridgment. And clearly, this ordinance would cause livability issues in Portland, as well as offering residents less free choice. So, would it be worth it? I have to say that the environmental reasons that are offered for this law simply do not give the complete environmental picture. The environmental resources that are used in making reusable or paper bags are significantly greater than those used in plastic bags, so it is likely that CO2 emissions will actually increase under this proposal. Without solid evidence of environmental benefit, this seems to me to be largely a symbolic gesture. The problem is that such gestures can have real, measurable bad consequences on the environment, business, and residents' day-to-day lives.

36804

The assumption behind the draft proposal seems to be that all plastic bags are only used once, and then thrown away. In fact, the draft law actually refers to plastic bags as "single-use plastic bags." However, as a library employee, I can testify that many plastic bags do get reused - for example, our staff members bring them in to give to patrons to keep their books dry, and our patrons bring them to reuse for this purpose as well. I know for a fact we are not the only library that does this. I also often reuse them at home, and see others doing the same - as a rain cover for a bike seat, as a substitute for saran wrap, as a way of transporting swimsuits from the pool... the list goes on and on. In fact, I see plastic bags being reused far more often than I see them littering the streets. And the reason that we all like to use - and reuse - plastic bags is that they are an excellent product: strong, waterproof, easy to carry on a walking or bike trip, low in environmental impact, and cheaply available.

Don't ban the bags.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Hardy



**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Keith Lee [keith@chinsimport.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 9:48 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban Comments

**Attachments:** Plastic Bag Ban Comments.doc



Plastic Bag Ban  
Comments.doc (..

Karla -

Please share my comments with all Council members, regarding the upcoming review on the proposed plastic bag ban.

Thanks!

Keith Lee  
Chin's Import Export Co., Inc.  
9333 N Rivergate Blvd  
Portland, OR 97203  
Tel: 503-224-4082; Fax: 503-224-0220  
www.chinsimport.com

Regards,  
Keith K. Lee  
Chin's Import Export Co., Inc.  
Mailing: PO Box 83035, Portland, OR 97283-0035  
Physical: 9333 N Rivergate Blvd., Portland, OR Tel: 503-224-4082; Toll Free:  
888-494-CHIN  
Fax: 503-224-0220  
Web: www.chinsimport.com

July 22, 2010

Mayor Sam Adams  
City of Portland  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

Mayor Adams:

While I applaud your personal efforts to mold the City of Portland into a better sustainable and environmentally friendly community, I think it is important that the Council considers additional concerns I have regarding your proposed plastic bag ban. As a third generation native Oregonian, born & raised in Portland, I take pride in the environmentally friendliness that local and state government has created. However, as a local private business owner, my third generation food service business continues to struggle to understand the difference between being practical, in comparison to being "politically correct".

As a distributor of take out packaging sold into the local food service restaurant community, we've adapted our product lines over the years, in order that our customers could comply to the ban on Styrofoam products implemented twenty years ago. For the past five years, we have tailored our business practices especially to focus on environmentally friendly packaging alternatives. However, ironically with little City enforcement of the Ordinance, many restaurants continue to violate the Styrofoam ban going unchecked. In fact, national chains such as KFC blatantly continue to use Styrofoam packaging throughout many of its Portland locations, due to the mere cost savings they reap during a tough economy. While I have briefly reviewed your proposed single use plastic bag ban ordinance, I have failed to see that you've outlined a long term enforcement plan, once the ban is put into place.

As you are probably aware, the City of Seattle took a bold stance two years ago, adopting a strict deadline to implement composting within food service & retail operations at the start of 2009. While its ban on the use of polystyrene foam products became quickly accepted, the ban on foam retail meat trays, as well as their proposed bag ban failed to be implemented. In fact, a referendum forced the bag ban to be placed before voters, which overwhelmingly lost by a 60% to 40% ratio. Seattle's recent July 1<sup>st</sup> implementation of additional composting regulations in the food service industry, proved fruitless in that it could not identify functional and cost effective products to meet the needs of many businesses.

Local composting options continue to be limited within the Portland city limits, with most all of collected compostable materials being sent 180 miles north to Cedar Grove Composting in the Seattle area. Furthermore, due to the restrictive nature and high associated costs to get their products certified by Cedar Grove, many suppliers of nationally approved compostable packaging have opted to ignore Cedar Grove as a composting site alternative. As Mayor, you need to place greater focus in opening more local composting facilities, such as the upcoming Recology facility in North Plains. An Allied Waste facility recently opened in the Corvallis area, and there's also talk of a private facility opening soon in The Dalles. Rarely do we read about the City of Portland diverting any of its compost to facilities located within Oregon.

I applaud Fred Meyer for taking a proactive stance in voluntarily removing all plastic bags from its Portland stores by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Without government pressure, they've sent a message to the public & its competitors, that it chooses to be environmentally friendly. Customers that choose to shop in their stores, do so out of choice, sending the message to others that Fred Meyer is doing "the right thing".

Although it appears that the City has chosen to follow the intended path that the Legislature will address with a statewide bag ban soon, placing a 5 cent cost on a paper bag also doesn't seem to make good sense either. If in fact government officials are concerned about the harm and pollution that plastic bags create, then in fact shouldn't we address the real problem, littering? When the City of Oregon City considered a Styrofoam ban years ago, they were quick to understand that by simply placing additional garbage cans through the city limits, much of its Styrofoam litter problems vanished. It's rare that one can walk more than ten feet anywhere in the city without seeing cigarette butts thrown on a sidewalk or street. Likewise, shouldn't we either ban smoking all together because of the associated litter, or why not find another reason to tax those who smoke cigarettes?

Think twice before passing legislation banning plastic and paper bags altogether, as it's clear that you have done good job about bringing awareness to the problem. However, it's clear that through Fred Meyer's corporate stance to ban the use of plastic bags in its Portland stores, other of its competitors will be soon to follow... just watch and see.

Sincerely yours

Keith K. Lee  
President  
Chin's Import Export Co., Inc.  
9333 N Rivergate Blvd  
Portland, OR 97203  
Tel: 503-224-4082  
Email: [keith@chinsimport.com](mailto:keith@chinsimport.com)  
Web: [www.chinsimport.com](http://www.chinsimport.com)

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Cherranne Verduin [cmverduin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2010 6:00 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** the effect this plastic bag ban would have on pet owners

Hello. I have nothing against "green grocery bags." My biggest problem is not bringing enough to the store to accommodate all my groceries, which I'll probably learn to do pretty quickly if this plastic bag ban does in fact go into effect. I also would like to live within the law. If I have to change something I'm used to, fine, if I know what behavior to change to, which at the moment I do not when it comes to a particular purpose for which I use plastic bags all the time.

Therefore, I have a question. It is a question to which I cannot believe the City Council will not be inundated with people who want an answer if you go through with this ban. For the hundreds, if not thousands of us who have pets, you are passing a law forbidding us from bagging up our pet waste. If we're no longer allowed to bag it up and throw it away, what are we to do with it? I know as a cat owner, for one, I cannot put waste mixed with cat litter in the toilet and try to flush it down. I'll end up with a stopped up toilet. I also imagine for people who own large dogs, their chunks of waste are so big that they would stop up a toilet as well. So if that's not an option, and bagging it up is prohibited, then how are we supposed to get rid of pet waste?

I just sent a comment form to Mayor Adams asking this, and I welcome either him or one of his associates to get back to me with an answer. However, I cannot be the only person who is scratching their heads asking themselves what to do. Therefore, if the ban goes through, which it sounds like it probably will, , there will be a lot of us who will be left in a difficult situation. On my own behalf, as well as that of countless Portland pet owners, I request that you make alternative suggestions for pet waste disposal as publically known as the fact that we're about to lose plastic bags.

Sincerely,

Cherranne Verduin

[cmverduin@gmail.com](mailto:cmverduin@gmail.com)

(503) 233-0452

7/23/2010

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Don Titus [titushome@fastmail.fm]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 1:37 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban

Dear Mr. Adams,

I do not support your proposed ban on plastic bags. You call them "single-use" bags, but in our household we keep every single one and re-use them - sometimes multiple times - as garbage bags, cat litter bags, wet diaper bags, and sometimes just when we need something to hold a bunch of stuff. It sure beats having to pay for plastic garbage bags at the grocery store. Banning plastic shopping bags will not reduce the number of plastic bags on this planet; it will just force families like ours to pay for what we can presently obtain for free, and put more dollars in the pockets of companies like Hefty and Glad.

Sincerely,

Don Titus

--

Don Titus  
titushome@fastmail.fm

--

<http://www.fastmail.fm> - Choose from over 50 domains or use your own



Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Tom Campbell [thomassbcampbell@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2010 3:35 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Plastic bags

**Greetings,**

**If you decide to outlaw plastic bags, you'd better have a good alternative prepared. Those paper ones with glued on handles break. And don't even think of charging money for those inadequate things - that's the grocer's expense.**

**Sincerely,**

**Tom Campbell**

---

Hotmail has tools for the New Busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Learn more.](#)