

PLASTIC BAGS

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

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Jarren & Marcella	6324 SE 41 st Ave 97202	sheilawild3@gmail.com
✓ CHARLES E. LONG	420 NE MASON ST. 97211	—
MRS. ANN WILSON New Line Motel	PO Box 97202 OR 97202	_____
✓ KATHY BAMBECK	5131 SW 38 th PL. #33 97221	_____
✓ TERRY PARKER	P.O. Box 13503 97213	
✓ JOE GILLIAM	8565 SW SALISH LN, WILSONVILLE 97070	joe@nwgrocery.org
✓ NASTASSIA PACE	6422 SE 60 th Ave Portland, OR 97206	stajpace@gmail.com
✓ Bob Sallinger	5151 NW Cornell Road Portland OR 97212	bsallinger@audenparkh.wa
NO INVITED Amy Brown	New Season's Market 2004 N Vancouver Ave PORTLAND, OR 97227	amyb@newseasonmarket.com
Lisa Sedlar		LISA@newseasonsmarket.com
✓ T.A. Barnhart	3111 SE 29 th Ave Pdx 97202	ta@tubarnhart.net

Agenda Item 770

TESTIMONY

3:45 PM TIME CERTAIN

PLASTIC BAGS

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

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ BRIAN PASKO	1821 SE Ankeny, PDx 97214	brian.pasko@sierraclub.org
✓ Alex Wall	3615 NE Fremont St. 97212	alexwall717@gmail.com
✓ Rick Paul	16722 SE Baxter	paulpony@frontier.com
✓ "BAG MONSTER" (RYAN CRUSE)	6844 NE 47 th Ave Portland, OR	rcruse@gmail.com
✓ JAMES SCHWARTZ	951 WE 39 th Ave PDx OR 97232	james.spdx@sierraclub.org

Testimony of Rick Paul on behalf of Recycling Advocates:

Mr. Mayor, Councilors, On behalf of Recycling advocates (RA) it is my privilege to encourage a positive vote on this Ordinance. RA has worked in this community since 1987, for example we helped form and still serve on the advisory committee of the highly successful Master Recycler program.

Plastic grocery bags divert resources and confuse the message of local recycling collection and education efforts. Local recycling companies have testified on how bags clog sorting machines and increase labor costs. Despite years of educational efforts by the City and everyone else, many people mistakenly put their plastic grocery bags in their curbside recycling bins. Getting people to keep glass on the side is difficult enough; banning plastic bags will help keep the City's educational focus on the positive messages.

For RA, our focus is on reducing the impacts of our daily actions and purchases – the end goal here is to see an increase in the use of re-useable bags. Banning plastic bags is a significant step, especially if the City and retailers also follow through with meaningful educational programs: Thoughtful Consumption is a good step in the right direction, but the heavy-lifting should not end with today's vote.

RA applauds the efforts of the Council to address this issue and supports the Ordinance.

Thank You.

Submitted by B&B Sallinger
Audubon Society
7/21/2011



184759



184759



184759



184759



Albatrosses on Midway ---Photos by Chris Jordan <http://www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>

Subject: Testimony to the Portland City Council on the subject of banning plastic bags, July 21, 2011

A ban on plastic bags will only increase the cost of doing business and increase the cost of living in Portland. The “single use” buzz phrase attached to the plastic courtesy bags at grocery store checkout counters is out right lie – a political spin contrived by supporters of a ban. Surveys have shown nearly ninety percent of households reuse the plastic bags in some manner as opposed to purchasing plastic bags for home use. Low profit resale businesses - the ultimate recyclers - almost exclusively reuse grocery and department store bags to reduce overhead costs. Additionally, it takes five truck loads of paper bags to match one truck load of plastic bags delivered to grocery stores.

How many of you shop at discount grocery stores needing multiple bags for one or more push carts filled with food items to feed large families as opposed to trotting down to your local grocery boutique and purchasing no more than can fit in a little cloth bag? This ban would not even be considered if those behind the concept truly believed in diversity instead of just catering to the special interests of their inner circles.

Moreover, this hearing is only window dressing to an already predetermined and dictatorial course of action that has not been fully vetted or debated with the public as a whole. As with most public hearings in this chamber, after listening to heaps of time consuming invited testimony, members of the public are disrespected with a two minute limit rather than the usual three minutes – which is less time than it takes for most council members to just explain their vote.

Finally, this ban is more about a high and mighty “single premise” agenda that is aimed at implementing a social engineering structure to control the lifestyles of Portlanders than it is about saving the city, environmentalism or sustainability. Elected officials in a democracy are supposed to be servants of the people, not dictators to the people. Without a mindset change that clearly demonstrates the council supports an inherent freedom of choice in daily life and mobility, a change of administration in the next election is absolutely essential. If an initiative petition campaign is mounted to refer the ban to a vote of the people, I will definitely sign it. Establishing a well designed recycling plan with a financially self-sustainable business plan would be less costly for both business interests and households; and in the long run, serve the people of Portland far better than a ban.

Respectfully,

Terry Parker

TESTIMONY

SAFELY PACKAGED IN A

RECYCLED PLASTIC BAG



8565 SW Salish Lane, Suite 100 • Wilsonville, OR 97070
 503-685-6293 • 800-824-1602 • Fax 503-685-6295
 E-mail info@nwgrocery.org or Visit Web site www.nwgrocery.org

**Testimony of the Northwest Grocery Association
 Before the Portland City Council - Ordinance to Ban Plastic Check-out Bags
 July 21, 2011**

The purpose of the Ordinance:

"Amend Code to promote reusable check-out bags and reduce use of single-use plastic check-out bags (Ordinance; add Code Chapter 17.103)"

NWGA members share a common goal of reducing litter in the form of plastic check-out bags and encouraging the use of reusable bags. This ordinance comes up short. It will affect the litter issue, but it does not provide an incentive to reduce the use of one-time check-out bags.

We are withholding our opposition to the ordinance in that Section 1 12 (b) *"requires the Director of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability shall return to Council with a report regarding the results of the enactment of this Ordinance, and making recommendations as to any potential expansion of the program."* This provision will be very important to actually making the ordinance environmentally friendly and cost effective for consumers.

Consumer Reaction:

According to the city's estimates, every Oregonian annually uses 444 plastic check-out bags. For the population of Portland (550,000) that equates to 244.2 million plastic check-out bags per year. A majority of Portlanders support the banning of the plastic check-out bag. They see the impact of litter in our streets and waterways.

However, we know from the San Francisco experiment that just banning plastic bags moves consumers from plastic to paper. The reason is quite simple. Consumers see the paper bag as "free". As long as there is a "free" paper bag, reusing the paper bag or bringing a cloth reusable bag is secondary.

The behavior in San Francisco has been confirmed by Portlanders right here in River City. Fred Meyer removed plastic check-out bags from their Portland stores and the annual increase in the use of paper bags has more than doubled. Given this Ordinance is a plastic bag ban only, the Council should not anticipate a significant shift to reusable bags failing the first stated purpose of the ordinance.

Cost of Ordinance to Consumers:

The actual cost impact on average is five (5) cents per bag when switching to paper (without handles) from plastic. When enacted, this ordinance will increase the annual cost of check-out bags by \$22.20 per Portlander (man, woman, and child). The total annual impact will be as high as \$12 million or 30 times the stated annual cost to the material recovery facilities (MRF) in the area. Because the Ordinance only bans plastic bags, it takes us in the wrong direction in terms of consumer costs and environmental impact.

Mitigation:

NWGA supports a concept that we believe is the most effective in promoting the reuse of bags. It doesn't eliminate the cost shift, but it does mitigate it.

NWGA proposes that as part of this ordinance, that the city require all covered retail outlets to provide not less than a 5-cent refund value (similar to the Oregon Bottle Bill) on all paper check-out bags that are re-used for a new purchase. This provides the consumer with an incentive to bring their paper bags back for another purchase. At the time of the new purchase they would receive a refund of 5-cents.

For every paper check-out bag re-used:

The 5-cent cost shift from plastic to paper would be cut by 50% (2.5 cents). This would reduce the overall annual cost to Portland consumers by as much as \$6 million dollars.

Every consumer that chooses to reuse their paper check-out bag is not affected by the cost impact of those consumers who choose not to reuse their bag.

The refund value is not a tax. Retailers would take a deposit at the time of purchase and return the entire amount upon reuse in a new transaction. The consumer who reuses their bag is made whole every time the bag is reused.

Reusing paper bags is the most sanitary and environmentally friendly of all the reusable-bag choices. They are made from a renewable resource, curbside recyclable, and made in the Northwest.

For some consumers, the idea of leaving a deposit will be adequate incentive to switch to a canvas reusable bag.

Conclusion:

NWGA believes the Council should amend the Ordinance today to include the refund value proposal. If the Council chooses not to, we will remain diligent in our interest in working with the Council and bring forth the data that supports our position over the next 12 months in accordance with Section 1 12 (b).



133 SW 2nd Ave., Suite 200
Portland, OR 97204
Telephone (503) 224-4011
Fax (503) 224-1548
E-mail olcv@olcv.org
www.olcv.org

184759

Testimony from Meredith Shield, OLCV Legislative Director

July 21, 2011

Mayor Adams and members of the Council:

Thank you very much for your time today and thank you for taking on this important issue. My name is Meredith Shield, Legislative Director for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and I am here to speak in support of banning single-use plastic checkout bags in Portland. This isn't a new issue. In fact, a year ago you were prepared to do what is being proposed here today in the city. Banning these plastic bags has also been a longstanding priority for Oregon's conservation community. And while we fell short during the 2011 Legislative Session, I am pleased to see that you are keeping your promise to move forward on this critical issue. And we appreciate the hard work in the legislature from the chief co-sponsors of Senate Bill 536: Senator Mark Hass, Senator Alan Bates, Senator Jason Atkinson, Representative Vic Gilliam, and Representative Ben Cannon.


Banning these bags is not a minor issue, as they significantly impact our communities and environment. In Oregon alone it is estimated that 1.7 billion plastic bags are used each year: that's roughly 444 bags for each man, woman and child in Portland. That's nearly two million bags that are not biodegradable.

These bags overflow from landfills, litter our roads, and pollute our waterways. They appear in our neighborhoods on streets, sidewalks, parks and even in trees and yards. They enter and clog storm drains during Portland's many rainy days. And they break down into smaller and smaller toxic bits, dramatically impacting wildlife. The plastic from these bags will never, ever go away.

While curbside recycling may seem like an option to address this problem, that simply isn't the case. Plastic bags are difficult and cost-prohibitive to recycle and when placed into recycling bins they cause significant problems. They can jam and shut down machinery and recycling facilities and when mixed with other recyclables they can contaminate the end-product. This means less money for our economy and higher collection rates for all of us.

Portland is not alone in this effort. Cities like San Francisco and Bellingham, Washington have banned the bag. And Los Angeles County's ban went into effect just a few weeks ago.

Oregon has a proud history of leading the nation in conservation: Oregon's landmark Bottle Bill, open beaches, and banning oil drilling off of Oregon's pristine coasts. Portland should take a page from our state's great history and innovate when it comes to banning single-use plastic bags. We look forward to working with you to build on this policy and are hopeful for a statewide solution to this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Meredith Shield,
OLCV Legislative Director

From: Leonard, Randy
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 2:04 PM
To: Adams, Sam
Cc: Libby, Lisa; Ogden, Casey J.; Oishi, Stuart; Yocom, Jennifer; Kovatch, Ty; Jimenez, Warren
Subject: RE: Plastic Bag Vote, 3:45 on Thursday, July 21

Mayor Adams,

I request the opportunity to vote on the plastic bag ban by telephone at the July 21st City Council hearing. Given that this is an emergency ordinance on an issue that will impact the public interest, health, safety and welfare, it is essential that the maximum number of available Council members be allowed to participate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Commissioner Randy Leonard

July 19, 2011

Mayor Sam Adams
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Adams and Members for the Portland City Council:

I wish to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance that would prohibit the largest generators of single-use plastic checkout bags—large grocery stores and large retailers with pharmacies—from distributing these bags to their customers at point of sale as of October 15, 2011.

Oregonians use an estimated 1.7 billion plastic checkout bags every year. Plastic bags have significant negative environmental impacts since they are not biodegradable. Plastic bags are rarely recycled, and most plastic bags end up in landfills or lost in the environment where they break into small, toxic bits, affecting marine life and the seafood that people eat. Additionally, plastic bags that get mixed with other recyclables also contaminate the end materials, lowering their quality and value.

I remain a strong supporter of the proposed statewide ban on single-use plastic bags that fell victim to out-of-state money and lobbying efforts during the 2011 legislative session. If the largest city in Oregon succeeds in banning single-use plastic bags that would significantly bolster a future statewide proposal.

I am pleased to see that this proposed city policy also promotes the use of reusable checkout bags and provides reusable bags for free to qualifying low-

income residents and seniors. Additionally, this ordinance does not discourage the retailer from offering a reusable bag discount at checkout. Portland has long been an environmental leader for the rest of the state and it is my hope that the city can again serve as a model on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jules Bailey', written in a cursive style.

Jules Bailey
Oregon State Representative
House District 42, Portland

TOMEI LETTER Portland Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance.txt

From: Eisenbeis, Dan
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 10:44 AM
To: Yocom, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Portland Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Jennifer,

Please see the statement of support for the proposed plastic bag ban ordinance below from Rep. Tomei.

Regards,
Dan

Daniel Eisenbeis
City of Portland | Office of Government Relations
503.823.3012 (o) | 503.823.6556 (c) | 503.823.3014 (f) |
Dan.Eisenbeis@portlandoregon.gov

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

From: Rep Tomei [mailto:tomei.rep@state.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 8:41 AM
To: Eisenbeis, Dan
Subject: RE: Portland Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Daniel,

Okay, here is the final one! Thank you for your understanding!

Siobhan

July 19, 2011

City of Portland,

As a former Mayor of the city of Milwaukie and now a current State Representative, I want to share with you my support of prohibiting single-use plastic checkout bags at retail establishments in Portland.

Oregonians use an estimated 1.7 billion single-use plastic bags every year. Despite efforts to expand recycling programs, less than 9% of single-use plastic bags are currently being recycled. The rest of these bags end up either in the landfills or littering our state, eventually making their way to our waterways and ocean.

An estimated 90% of the garbage floating in the ocean is plastic. Plastic lasts for hundreds of years and may never biodegrade in the ocean. Each year, an estimated one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals die as a result of eating or being strangled by plastic and other marine debris. This is reason enough for the city of Portland to ban plastic bags at retail establishments.

Sincerely,

TOMEI LETTER Portland Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance.txt

Carolyn Tomei
State Representative
District 41

CAROLYN TOMEI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 41

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Office: 900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301 - Phone: 503-986-1441 -
rep.carolyntomei@state.or.us<mailto:rep.carolyntomei@state.or.us><mailto:rep.carolyn
tomei@state.or.us>

District: P. O. Box 22147, Milwaukie, OR 97269 - Phone: 503-653-5180

184759

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Kenny, Ryan [Ryan_Kenny@americanchemistry.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 10:52 AM
To: Adams, Sam; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Fish; Leonard, Randy; Commissioner Saltzman
Cc: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance
Attachments: ACC Letter to City of Portland.pdf

Dear Honorable Members of the Portland City Council,

Please find attached a letter from the American Chemistry Council commenting on the proposed plastic bag ordinance. We would appreciate your consideration of our views.

Thank you,

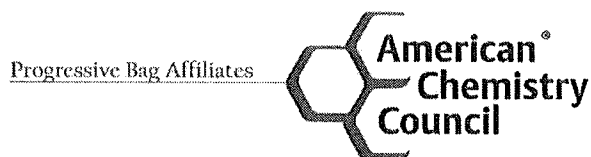
Ryan Kenny
Manager, State Affairs
American Chemistry Council

1121 L Street, Suite 609
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone (916) 448-2581
Fax (916) 442-2449
Cell (916) 606-5772

www.americanchemistry.com

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7/21/2011



July 20, 2011

The Honorable Sam Adams
Mayor, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue--Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Re: AGENDA ITEM NO. 770: PROPOSED PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE

Dear Mayor Adams:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC), a national trade association of manufacturing companies, including those domestic producers of fully recyclable retail plastic bags, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments respectfully opposing the proposed ordinance banning plastic bags.

ACC members strongly agree that litter and marine debris is a significant problem that must be addressed. Litter of all types does not belong in our oceans and waterways. Plastics in particular at the end of their use belong in recycling bins and ACC has and continues to work with communities across the country to increase access to recycling, including programs aimed specifically at plastic retail bags.

Please consider the following important points:

MUNICIPAL BAG POLICIES SINGLING OUT PLASTICS HAVE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

A proposed ban on plastic bags may result in some consumers using reusable bags but data show that many more consumers simply switch to paper bags which often have significant, yet overlooked environmental impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF INCREASED PAPER BAG USAGE

A Life Cycle Assessment of plastic bags versus alternatives conducted by Boustead Environmental Consulting in 2007 concluded the following¹:

- Plastic bags require 70 percent less energy than paper bags;
- Plastic bags generate less than half the greenhouse gas emissions;
- Plastic bags generate 80% less solid waste than paper;
- Plastic bags use less than 1/20th the water of paper.

Similarly, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) recently conducted an extensive analysis of the environmental impacts of plastic bags and concluded a ban would cause a shift back to paper. The SPU study, which examined the life cycle environmental impact of retail carryout bags, found that among other things, the impact of paper bags was overall four times worse than that for an equal number of plastic bags (for all environmental impact categories weighted equally).

In fact, SPU materials state, "Banning plastic bags only would push stores and shoppers to paper bags, resulting in significantly greater greenhouse gas generation."²

¹ Boustead Consulting, "Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags - Recyclable Plastic; Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic; and Recycled, Recyclable Paper," 2007.

² City of Seattle, Disposable Shopping Bags Green Fee and Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Foam Food Container Ban FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) April 2, 2008.

BANS DO NOT PREVENT LITTER

A 2008 litter audit conducted by San Francisco after it banned plastic grocery bags in 2007 revealed the ban did nothing to reduce litter. Total bag litter actually increased by nearly 40 percent after the ban, and plastic bag litter remained the same as a percent of the total: only 0.6% of the litter composition.³

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING IS GROWING

Plastic bag recycling is well established across the country, and is a *growing national trend*. More than 850 million pounds of plastic bags and film were recycled in 2009 (the last year data is available), according to a national report, and *the recycling rate has doubled* since 2005 to around 13 percent. Today there are more locations that accept plastic bags for recycling than ever before. More than 12,000 retail locations have bag and wrap recycling bins. And, a growing number of states and cities around the United States – including California, Florida, New York, Delaware, Rhode Island, Virginia, Chicago, New York City and Tucson – have enacted laws or implemented voluntary initiatives to establish at-store programs to collect plastic bags and product wraps for recycling as a practical and effective means to reduce waste from this material.

BANS DISMANTLE THE GROWING RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BAGS AND FILM

The domestic and export market for bag and film material typically generated through retail collection programs is expanding. Adoption of this ordinance could have the unintended consequence of dismantling the recovery infrastructure for plastic bags and product wraps – like the wraps around soda, paper towels, diapers and other products. The result would be more film material going to landfills. The loss of this recycling infrastructure also would be a strong blow to domestic manufacturers who need consistent, quality feedstock.

A COMMON MISPERCEPTION IS BANNING PLASTIC BAGS WILL REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL—UNTRUE

In the United States, nearly 80% of the raw material used to make polyethylene plastic bags is natural gas, not oil.

WHAT ABOUT REUSE?

The vast majority of U.S. consumers - almost 90 percent – already reuse their bags. Those free plastic bags from the grocery store get lots of second uses around the home – uses for which consumers would otherwise need to buy heavier plastic bags to do the same job. Banning these useful items doesn't make any environmental sense.

A BETTER APPROACH

A "reduce, reuse, recycle" approach has proven to be an effective and more consumer-friendly way to reduce bag waste and litter. Encouraging consumers to use reusable bags and further promoting the recycling of paper and plastic bags are positive steps Portland could take. Despite rhetoric from the proponents, recycling plastic bags and wraps is working. We agree that more should be done to discourage littering, but creating such an onerous regulatory scheme is excessive and bag bans are not the answer.

ACC encourages the city of Portland to consider these scientific facts and unintended consequences associated with a possible ban on plastic bags. While we do not support the proposed ban on plastic bags, we do support efforts to expand recycling opportunities for plastic bags and would welcome the opportunity to work with the city of Portland to develop such a program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these remarks. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 202-249-6616 or via email at shari_jackson@americanchemistry.com.

Sincerely,

³ Bag litter in San Francisco increased from 169 bags per site before the plastic bag ban in 2007 to 235 bags per site in 2008. Sources: The City of San Francisco STREETS LITTER RE-AUDIT 2008 PREPARED FOR The City of San Francisco San Francisco Environment Department http://www.sfenvironment.org/downloads/library/2008_litter_audit.pdf page 35 vs. The City of San Francisco STREETS LITTER AUDIT 2007. <http://www.sfenvironment.org/downloads/library/rolitterstudy12june07final.pdf> page 33

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shari Jackson".

Shari M. Jackson
Director, Progressive Bag Affiliates

Cc: Members, Portland City Council

Emailed Council

7/21 sp

Parsons, Susan

From: Libby, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 5:17 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: FW: Bag Testimony

FYI

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

From: Papaefthimiou, Jonna
 Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 2:18 PM
 To: Libby, Lisa
 Subject: Bag Testimony

Hi Lisa-To add to your already-bulging file, I'm sure. He also called this morning.-Jonna

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

From: "Employee Services" <employee.services@state.or.us>
 To: "richard_hodges@juno.com" <richard_hodges@juno.com>
 Subject: RE: Bag Testimony
 Date: Mon, 21 Feb 2011 10:46:04 -0800

Your testimony has been added as an exhibit.

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

From: richard_hodges@juno.com [mailto:richard_hodges@juno.com]
 Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:18 PM
 To: employee.services@state.or.us
 Subject: Bag Testimony

Karen Hupp, or Mary Rowinski, ADA Coordinators

I originally submitted this testimony to the Portland City Council in July, 2010. I'd like it also to be read at the next hearing for SB 536 and entered into the record.

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 by Sam Adams and others 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, 2010, 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 landfill. 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 in the landfill, but so does virtually 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,

Hodges

Richard W.

Dermatologists Hate Her

Local Mom Reveals \$5 Trick to Erase Wrinkles. Shocking Results Exposed

<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3131/4d50e063156e22537c0st01duc>

007 141

Moore-Love, Karla

184759

From: Geraldine M [asimag@copper.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 4:57 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: moi
Subject: Plastic bags ARE needed. Do NOT ban. Pass to Mayor and Commissioners.

Dear Karla,

Plastic bags ARE needed. Do NOT ban. I have spoken to many people from many walks of life and ages and they want to keep the bags.

Please pass on this email to the Mayor and his commissioners.. Can it be put on the agenda and read, as I may not be able to get there? I am FOR keeping the bags in Portland, Oregon. I have emailed many people this letter. I am requesting that this letter be read at the meeting, as I may not be able to make it. I had told someone I would help with a wedding tomorrow at 5 pm... So I am not sure I can be back across town by 5. How long is the meeting bag portion? Thanks.

Geraldine Misa

Dear Mr. Mayor and Commissioners:

Plastic bags ARE needed. Do NOT ban. I have spoken to many people from many walks of life and ages and they want to keep the bags.

A better suggestion: MORE recycling of plastic bags, included with city pick up, in stores and also write on the bags : Take them to recycling - a bag sent from Connecticut arrived today and it was printed on their bags - as is a "LOWE's" bag. I strongly recommend that as a strong alternative and further impetus. Thanks and please read the email below to some area residents.

Geraldine Misa

Hi friends,

Adams and the commissioners are meeting on Thursday at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave, 2nd floor from 2 pm on and at 3:45 they are voting about banning plastic bags from stores with pharmacies and stores that sell over \$2 million a year. I think Sam Adams and cronies have taken too much control of things in this city and I want to ensure that he **does not** ban plastic bags. He wants to be like San Francisco!!! I am asking you all to write to the woman who will pass emails to the council/mayor. Her address is karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov. If you prefer to call, you can call 503-823-4000 and ask to be transferred to the mayor's office. Another number is 503-823-4120 or 503-823-4068. Or come to the meeting, too.

I have talked to all kinds of people - from Thrift stores, Grocery stores, St. Vincent DePaul, bus riders, Shelters, church and more. They want to keep the bags, as they

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are needed, make carrying things safer and easier, and are re-used many times and very very often then re-cycled at stores such as Freddie's. Paper bags kill trees and are hard to handle. My paper bag from Freddie's yesterday split down the side and cans fell on my feet then on the ground.

I plan to go to the meeting. All Adam's finagling with our sewer money to make bike paths, buy almost 200 acres of land for a city park and also build some new building and fund the Rose Parade are misappropriations of our sewer/water monies. I don't want him messing up our usage of plastic bags. There is TOO MUCH government control of our everyday lives as it is.

Thanks so much for your reading and taking action. GOD bless you.

Also please forward to as many friends, neighbors, coworkers who shop, live and/or work in Portland. Thanks again.

~^..^~

c2010

Geraldine Misa

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**OCEANA**222 NW Davis Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97209 USAProtecting the
World's Oceans+1.503.235.0278
oceana.org

July 20, 2011

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204**RE: Support for Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags**

Dear Portland City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Oceana, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans, to express support for item 770 banning the use of single-use plastic bags in the city of Portland. Such a ban will help preserve the integrity of our local ecosystems, reduce the burden on landfills, and cut back on litter within the county and city premises. For these reasons we strongly encourage you to pass this ordinance.

Plastic bags pose a serious environmental risk. Plastic takes from 500 to 1,000 years to break down in a landfill. In the marine environment, plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces that absorb toxic chemicals, are ingested by wildlife, and enter the food chain that we depend on. For example, endangered leatherback sea turtles that feed on jellyfish off the Pacific Northwest coast are especially vulnerable to plastic ingestion. Plastic bags have a surprisingly close resemblance to their prey. One study found that 37% of 371 autopsied leatherback sea turtles had plastic in their GI tract.¹

Approximately 100 billion petroleum-based, plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. In Oregon alone the number of bags is estimated at 1.7 billion per year.

Many other countries and U.S. cities have already passed restrictions on plastics bags and have seen a successful reduction in their use. For example, since Ireland passed a bag tax in 2002 they have seen a 90% reduction in plastic bag use. In order to achieve its waste reduction and recycling goals, and to preserve local and coastal ecosystems, the city of Portland should ban the use of single-use plastic bags and continue to be a role model for sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

Please pass this ordinance for a cleaner, healthier Portland.

Sincerely,

Ben Enticknap
Pacific Project Manager

¹ Mrosovsky, N. G.D. Ryan, and M.C. James. 2009. Leatherback turtles: the menace of plastic. Marine Pollution Bulletin. 58: 287-289.

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Parsons, Susan

From: Sue Vang [suevang@cawrecycles.org]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 12:06 PM
To: Adams, Mayor
Cc: Commissioner Fish; Commissioner Fritz; Leonard, Randy; Commissioner Saltzman; Parsons, Susan
Subject: Reduction of Single-use Bag Ordinance - SUPPORT
Attachments: C4R Letter of Support_Portland.pdf

Dear Honorable Mayor Adams,

On behalf of Campaign for Recycling, an environmental organization dedicated to waste reduction and recycling, I submit a letter of support for your ordinance adding City Code Chapter 17.103.

As our name indicates, we are proponents of recycling for most materials, but in regards to plastic bags we have found recycling to be problematic—with unsuccessful collection rates, expensive logistical costs, and a small resale market.

Thank you for your leadership on this important environmental issue.

Sincerely,

Sue Vang

Policy Associate | Campaign For Recycling
921 11th Street, Suite 420 | Sacramento, CA 95814
(p) 916-551-1751 | (f) 916-443-3912
www.campaignforrecycling.org

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July 18, 2011

Mayor Sam Adams
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Reduction of Single-Use Carryout Bags – Support

Dear Honorable Mayor Adams,

Campaign For Recycling strongly supports the adoption of an ordinance to add City Code Chapter 17.103, restricting single-use carryout bags in Portland, Oregon. Plastic bags are a costly, environmentally damaging, and easily preventable source of pollution. Light and aerodynamic, plastic bags are uniquely litter-prone even when properly disposed of, and pose a serious threat to the environment. For all intents and purposes, plastic never biodegrades. Instead, it slowly photo degrades and breaks into smaller pieces that attract surrounding toxins. These particles form a progressively greater risk of contamination to the food chain and environment.

In addition to the environmental costs, there are economic costs to plastic bag pollution. Plastic bags make up a disproportionate share of the litter stream, harming stormwater systems and increasing cleanup costs for local agencies. While the useful life of plastic bags is measured in minutes, their end-life is measured in decades.

Recycling is not a solution. In California, despite establishing the state's largest collection infrastructure for any single material, efforts to manage single-use plastic bags through recycling have failed. The statewide recycling rate in 2009 was a mere 3%. Furthermore, the small percentage that is recycled is cost-prohibitive. The market price for bales of plastic bags is substantially offset by the logistical costs of collecting, transporting, and handling the bags for baling.

And while prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic bags may initially result in some return to the use of paper bags, any cost associated with paper bag usage will be more than offset by the elimination of single-use plastic. Contrary to what industry-funded life cycle analyses may report, the manufacture and use of paper bags generate lower greenhouse gas emissions compared to plastic bags. Moreover, jurisdictions with plastic bag bans have seen a shift to environmentally superior reusable bags and little or no increase in demand for single-use paper bags.

Plastic pollution is a global problem, but regional solutions can make a difference. Washington, D.C.'s bag ordinance immediately reduced bag distribution from 22.5 million bags a month to just 3.3 million a month. The litter and costs associated with single-use plastic bags are considerable and my staff and I have been working with policy makers and stakeholders in multiple states and local jurisdictions on this. We thank you for your leadership on this issue and urge you to support and pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Mark Murray
Executive Director

cc: City Council Members