

MIKE DEE

MIKE DEE4@GMAIL.COM

Homeless

10-10-12

1133 - I HAVE NOT READ THE REPORT. THE PLASTIC BAGS NOW BEING USED ARE NOT VERY ~~USEFUL~~ USEFUL BECAUSE THEIR STRENGTH HAS BEEN SO MINIMALIZED TO MAKE THEM MORE "ECO-FRIENDLY" AND LESS EXPENSIVE.

1136 - I WANTED A QUICK PRESENTATION BEFORE THE VOTE. I ~~DID~~ ^{WAS} NOT ~~ABLE~~ TO DOWNLOAD FOR REVIEW.

1138 - I SHOULD OF PULLED ~~BECAUSE~~ OF EMERGENCY ^{"*"} DESIGNATION.

1139 } I THINK ~~NO~~ & LOW INCOME PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE BETTER ACCESS
1140 } TO THESE SERVICES. SINCE THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY IS BEING GRANTED, THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE GRANTED FREE WIRELESS AND MOBILE OPTIONS, AS PART OF THE AGREEMENTS, NOT LIMITED TO THESE 2 COMPANIES.

* 1143 } I Don't Like Emergency ^{"*"} Designations unless they are actual Emergencies.
* 1144 } ~~D~~

* 1150 - URBAN RENEWAL, NOT URBAN REMOVAL; Not Emergency

1152 - Sounds like a good start.



TO: Mayor Sam Adams and Portland City Council

FROM: Sarah Higginbotham, State Director
Environment Oregon
1536 SE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97214

DATE: October 10, 2011

RE: Expansion of Single-Use Bag Ordinance

As the State Director for Environment Oregon, I am here to represent the thousands of our members who live in the City of Portland. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. Thank you for the opportunity to share our opinion on an important issue.

I'm here today to applaud the City of Portland for being the first city in Oregon to take action in reducing unnecessary and harmful plastic bag waste in 2011. Not only has plastic bag use dropped but reusable bag use has increased, according to the recent report from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. Thank you for taking action and leading the way.

Since the passage of Portland's ban, Oregonians have continued to voice their support of reducing plastic bag waste. The City of Corvallis has passed a more comprehensive and inclusive policy than Portland's, one that covers all retailers. The policy enacted in Corvallis, and a similar policy under consideration in the City of Eugene, are strong stances to protect our waterways and oceans from plastic pollution that never biodegrades and only adds to the growing Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

To date, fifty cities in California are living plastic bag-free, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, with almost all of them enacting policies more expansive than Portland's current ban. The City of Seattle and six other cities in Washington have also taken action with a more comprehensive ban than Portland's policy.

Portland's bag policy passed in 2011 was a good start, and it demonstrated that Portlanders care about reducing the negative effects plastic bags have on the environment. But the policy didn't go far enough.

In 2010, the Council heard over and over again about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, where millions of tons of trash accumulate in a toxic soup of plastic waste in the North Pacific Gyre of the Pacific Ocean. As we knew it would be, today it's still there and there is still more we can do to stop the flow of garbage into our ocean that never goes away.

On September 25th, *The Oregonian* reported on the front page the thousands upon thousands of toxic-laden microplastics on Oregon's beaches; plastic fragments spin out of the North Pacific Gyre and settle into high-tide sands, from Cape Blanco to the Northern Oregon coast. A half-pound of plastic was collected in one square meter at Crescent Beach this summer—plastic that has likely been as sea for years, breaking down under ultraviolet rays but not biodegrading.

How much more evidence do we need of our single-use trash coming back to haunt us? Sea turtles, whales, otters, dolphins, and sea birds deal with the hazardous and deadly repercussions of our waste every day. Our beaches are the garbage dumps where toxic plastic comes home to rest. In 2010, a gray whale washed up on the shores of the Puget Sound—among the trash found in its stomach: 20 plastic bags. It's disgusting and all evidence tells us we won't be able to ignore the millions of tons of plastic garbage out in the Pacific forever.

But we can continue to make a meaningful difference. I am here today to ask the Council to support expanding the plastic bag ban to all retailers, with a plan for phasing in restaurants as well. To mitigate an unintentional increase in paper bag usage, major cities have paved the way for Portland and wisely included an effective pass-through cost on paper bags. Environment Oregon supports this policy and recommends a 10 cent fee. This is the model adopted by the City of San Francisco, which like Portland, first passed a less inclusive policy, and revisited the issue in 2012.

Environment Oregon's citizen outreach team is currently talking with Portlanders on their doorsteps and around town about expanding Portland's ban, and the response is overwhelmingly positive. To date, we've collected over 800 petitions from citizens asking the City Council to move forward and take further action.

Environment Oregon is joined by Portland Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, the Portland Audobon Society, Oceana, Oregon Shores, and Tualatin Riverkeepers in supporting this expansion.

Nothing we use so briefly—whether it's to carry groceries or line our small garbage bins—should ever end up in the belly of a whale or littering our beaches forever. Oregon and future generations deserve better.

I am including additional information below that I hope is helpful to the Council.

Thank you for your time, service and serious consideration of this issue.

Environmental Impacts of Plastic Bags

Currently, millions of tons of garbage are floating in the Pacific Ocean—a toxic soup of trash that's wreaking havoc for marine wildlife and our ocean ecosystem. Plastic is the most common type of marine debris worldwide, and comprises up to 90% of floating marine debris.¹ And 80% of that plastic comes from inland land-based sources.² The most common type of plastic found in the ocean's garbage patch is low-density polyethylene, which is the plastic used to make checkout bags. These are the same plastic shopping bags that collect on Oregon's beaches, river banks, and waterways. Plastic like this does not biodegrade, but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces lasting over 100 years, often carrying toxins like pesticides and PCB's into the ocean.

¹ United nations. Marine Litter: An Analytical Overview., Web. <http://www.cleantoday.org/education.htm>.

² California Ocean Protection Council. "An Implementation Strategy for the California Ocean Protection Council Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter." 2008.

Plastic litter poses special threats to wildlife, killing millions of marine mammals and seabirds every year through strangulation, suffocation, starvation, and poisoning. Sea turtles in particular mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. In a Florida study, the autopsies of turtles found that 71% of them had ingested plastic debris, which was caught in every part of the turtles' digestive tracts. And in 2010, a beached grey whale in Seattle was found with 20 plastic bags in its stomach.

It should go without saying, nothing we use for a few minutes, should end up in the belly of a whale.

Recycling Cannot Solve Oregon's Plastic Bag Problem

Less than 5 percent of plastic grocery checkout bags are recycled.³ According to the EPA, only 4.3 percent of all plastic grocery checkout bags in the US were recycled in 2010⁴. The plastic bags that enter the waste stream in Oregon interfere with the operation of our recycling facilities. When plastic bags pollute mixed recyclables, they get tangled in recyclers' machinery, causing plants to shut down. The Association of Oregon Recyclers found that **even though Plastic Bag Film represents only 0.1% of incoming volumes, 20-30% of labor costs for MRF's in the Portland Metro Area are spent dealing with plastic film.**⁵

Plastic bags specifically collected for recycling are often exported to countries with fewer environmental regulations, causing more pollution and waste. In 2009, the last year data was available, 57.5 percent of all reclaimed film went abroad, mostly to China, where fewer environmental regulations exist.⁶ In China, plastic bag recycling plants have several environmental and human health impacts.

Portland Action Makes a Difference

For all of these sound environmental reasons, among others, in 2011, the City of Portland passed a ban on single-use plastic bags at some retailers. Environment Oregon applauds that decision. However, with other cities demonstrating the difference a stronger policy can have on reducing the estimated 1.7 billion bags Oregonians use every year, it's time to adopt a broader policy by expanding the ban to all retailers and restaurants.

A statewide policy might have been blocked in the state legislature in 2011 by out-of-state special interests that don't represent Oregonians, but Portland can continue making a big difference by taking local action. With a more comprehensive plastic bag ban in place in Corvallis and under consideration in Eugene, and in major cities like San Francisco and Seattle, Portland should improve its policy to logically cover all establishments.

³ US EPA, Office of Resource Conservation and Recover. Municipal Solid Waste in the United States; Tables and Figures for 2010. November 2011.

⁴ See note 1

⁵ The Association of Oregon Recyclers found that even though Plastic Bag Film represents only 0.1% of incoming volumes, 20-30% of labor costs for MRF's in the Portland Metro Area are spent dealing with plastic film.

⁶ See note 8

Comprehensive Bag Policy

Single-use, disposables of any type is a wasteful use of valuable resources, and reusable bags provide the most environmental solution. The best way to encourage the use of reusable bags is to have a “pass-through cost” on paper bags, in addition to a ban on plastic.

Most ordinances in the U.S. have a pass-through cost on paper. In California, of the 50 cities and 6 counties that have plastic bag bans, all but 4 cities have a pass-through fee on paper bags⁷. In Washington, all seven cities with plastic bag ordinances have a pass-through fee. In cities that passed a ban only on plastic bags, like San Francisco, most return to the issue realizing that the policy did not go far enough by including a disincentive to use paper bags as well.

Environment Oregon Urges Portland to Expand the Bag Ban

Environment Oregon supports the City of Portland in passing a smart bag policy that includes a ban on single-use plastic checkout bags and a pass-through cost on paper bags at all retailers and at restaurants. Every day we wait to take action, the amount of plastic garbage grows exponentially, and so we urge swift action on this issue.

⁷ See “Elements of a Successful Single-Use Bag Ordinance”

Dear Portland City Council:

We, *THE UNDERSIGNED*, hereby support a ban on single-use plastic bags and a 10-cent fee on paper bags **at all retailers** within the City of Portland to prevent plastic trash from entering the ocean, encourage the use of reusable bags, and reduce our dependence on finite natural resources.

Single-use plastic bags represent one of the greatest environmental catastrophes of our generation. Oregonians use an estimated 1.7 billion single-use plastic bags every year. The state spends millions annually to clean up and landfill these littered bags, and millions of dollars are also spent by local governments to clean littered streets and waterways. It is estimated that 60-80% of all debris in the ocean is land-based plastic and these items take hundreds of years to break down at sea and most types never truly biodegrade. As a result, marine animals often get entangled in the debris or mistake it for food endangering critical ocean species within our own food chain upon which we depend.



The City of Portland made huge strides in cutting down on the plastic bag waste-stream, about 8.5 million fewer plastic bags per month, according to a report from just 23 of the 55 major grocers that participated in the Northwest Grocery Association's 6 month study following the initial plastic bag ban ordinance. In just six months, in just those subset of stores, we are talking about 52 million bags! This simply demonstrates the scale of the issue; **imagine if all retailers in Portland banned plastic bags!** A better bag ban would not only further expand the current policy to all retailers, but would also extend a pass through cost or fee on paper bags to help effectively shift consumer behavior to reusable bags. The current policy unfortunately has shifted many consumers to paper bags and [studies show](#) that a small fee can effectively shift consumer behaviors to reusable bags.

Many other cities have taken similar action recently including San Francisco, Seattle, and Corvallis that all passed comprehensive ordinance *bans* on plastic bags with a pass through fee on paper bags. It is now time for Portland to demonstrate similar leadership in support of a sustainable future for all people and our natural environment.

Sincerely,

**Matt Spencer- Portland Chapter Chair
Surfrider Foundation**

**Sarah Higginbotham- State Director
Environment Oregon**

**Travis Williams- Riverkeeper
Willamette Riverkeeper**

**Bob Sallinger- Conservation Director
Audubon Society Portland Chapter**

**Andy Maggi- Political Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters**

**Ben Enticnap, Pacific Program Manager
Oceana**

**Phillip Johnson- Executive Director
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition**

**Monica Smiley- Executive Director
Tualatin Riverkeepers**

**Betty Patton- Chair
Recycling Advocates**

**Kristofor Lofgren- Owner
Bamboo Sushi**

**Kat Liebman- Owner/Head Chef
Cocotte Restaurant**

**Joseph Ahearne- Owner
Ahearne Cycles**

**Michael LaCasa- Manager
Apogee Landscapes LLC**

PLASTIC BAG BAN ONE-YEAR REPORT

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

| NAME (print) | ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE | Email |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MIKE DEE | Homeless | MIKEDEE4@GMAIL.COM |
| INVITED ✓ JOE WILLIAM | 8565 SW SALISH LANE WILSONVILLE OR 97070 | Joe@nwgrocery.org |
| INVITED ✓ JESSICA MILLER | 2375 NW Thurman St. PDX, OR 97210 | Jessica@foodfront.org |
| ✓ ROB COCHRAN | 1422 SE MAIN ST PDX 97214 | WORLDCITIZENROB@GMAIL.COM |
| ✓ TARA GALLAGHER | 8228 SE 8th Ave 97202 | tara.gallagher@ gmail.com |
| ✓ SARAH HIGGINBOTHAM | 2925 SE 50th 97206 | Sarah@environmentoregon.org |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**NORTHWEST GROCERY ASSOCIATION
 PORTLAND BAG BAN IMPACT
 11/1/11 - 4/30/12 (first 6 months)**

*Submitted by
 Joe Gilliam
 10/10/12*

| Total 23 of 55 Portland Grocery Stores | Jan 2011 thru Sept 2011 | Nov 2011 thru April 2012 | % CHANGE |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Plastic as a % of Total Bags (all) used | 86% | 0% | 0% |
| Paper as a % of Total Bags (all) used | 7% | 61% | 841% |
| Reusable as a % of Total Bags (all) used | 7% | 39% | 575% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| Percentage Increase in Paper Bag Usage | 0% | 491% |
| Percentage Increase in Reusable Bag Usage | 0% | 304% |
| Ratio of CHECKOUT Bags to 1 reuseable sold | 499 | 115 |
| Net Bag Cost Per Store <i>First 6 months / 2 plastic to 1 paper</i> <i>Does not include cost of increased cost for paper bags with handle.</i> | \$ - | \$ 23,369 |

RESULTS:

Portland ban has reduced plastic bag consumption

Portland ban has increased paper bag usage by 491%

Portland ban has increased reusable bag usage by 304%

The Portland ban has decreased the ratio of the number of CHECKOUT bags used to reusable bags sold from 499 to 1, to 115 to 1

ANALYSIS:

Portland ban has moved customer behavior to favor paper over reusable by a 1.5 to 1 margin

Portland ban has moved customer behavior to triple the use of reusable bags

Portland ban is a limited success, but lacks proper scope and incentives to have a meaningful environmental impact

Portland ban has created excessive cost on a subset of retailers included in the ban vs retailers that are exempt (\$46,000 annually per store)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Amend Portland ban to include all retailers

Amend Portland ban to require retailers to charge five (5) cents per paper bag