

AMEND CODE ON PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS

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

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✓ Rhett Lawrence		rhettlawrence@yahoo.com
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✓ Tracey Read	311 SEABEE LANE DISCOVERY BAY HONG KONG	tracy@plasticfreesecs.org
✓ Brandon Hill	PO Box 3347 Portland OR	bphill@bamboosushi.com
✓ Sarah Higginsbotham	Environment Oregon 1536 SE 11th, PDX 97214	sarah@environmentoregon.org

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✓ Tara Gallagher	8728 SE 8th 97202	tara.gallagher84@gmail.com
✓ Kevin Tocke	4530 SE Clinton 97206	kevin_tocke@yahoo
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TERRY PARKER  
P.O. BOX 13503  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97213-0503

185737

Subject: Testimony to the Portland City Council in opposition of expanding the plastic bag ban  
November 15, 2012

On the table is the slop bucket that was dropped off at my residence at the time of the change over to bi-weekly garbage pickup. This foreign made, inferior quality, single-use plastic bucket has sat a few feet from the garbage can ever since it was delivered. Instead of sending it off to the landfill, where plenty of these buckets likely ended up; I decided to bring it back to the originator. Consider it an end of term parting gift.

Unlike the slop bucket, the whole concept of calling plastic bags "single use" is pompous propaganda - a highly orchestrated political spin that is an out right lie. One study indicated that 90 percent of households reuse them for one purpose or another

After my dad passed away in the late 1970's, on a shoe string budget, my mother traveled all over the world – something she had wanted to do since she was a young girl. Just about everything in her luggage was wrapped in plastic bags. While I don't go that far, the majority of the multi-use plastic checkout bags that I receive are reused in some manner; and yes some are used for garbage bags instead of those heavyweight black plastic garbage bags. .

The resale industry also knows the value of these plastic bags, reusing other retailer's bags at their own checkout. Likewise, new plastic bags cost less, take up less storage space than paper bags and consume less energy to transport. I also know of people who get in their car, fuel up and routinely drive outside of Portland to do their shopping because of the current plastic bag ban

Elected officials in a democratic society are theoretically the servants of the people, not dictators to the people. Yet in Portland, the current direction caters to and dictates the mantra of special interest agendas rather than representing the mainstream populous and silent majority.

The premise of a plastic bag ban directly takes this backwards approach. Expanding the bag ban will increase the burden on businesses and hassles for customers. In reality, this is dictatorial social engineered policy making, along with costly government controlled price fixing. It also clearly demonstrates Portland city government does not have a clear understanding of customer service or business to consumer rapport.

The current trademark of Portland is one of implementing costly special interest socially engineered agendas, not as an affordable and self-sustainable city. Banning plastic bags is a socialistic, dictatorial dynasty type decision. Ramping up a recycling program would be a better fit than even the current bag ban.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Parker – Northeast Portland



## Recycling Advocates

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**To:** Portland City Council

**From:** Recycling Advocates

**Date:** November 15, 2012

**RE:** City code amendment to promote reusable checkout bags and reduce use of single-use plastic checkout bags

Good afternoon, Commissioners – my name is Rhett Lawrence and I am the Vice-President of Recycling Advocates. Formed in 1987, Recycling Advocates is Oregon's only citizen-based, grassroots group dedicated to creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Recycling Advocates and our members.

Recycling Advocates would first like to thank City Council for taking on this issue last year and setting Portland on a path to reduce the use of plastic checkout bags. We support the city's effort, both through your policy efforts and the BPS staff's outreach and tabling efforts to increase the number of reusable checkout bags used in our city. We are grateful that City Council has returned to the issue and is considering expanding last year's ordinance, but we believe that the City is not going quite far enough in the expansion being contemplated today.

RA believes strongly in the solid waste management hierarchy of reduce, reuse, and recycle, in that order. Thus, our efforts are focused on waste reduction first – in this case, promoting and increasing the use of reusable bags. RA's position – backed up by the real world experience of other cities and states – is that the most effective policy to increase reusable bag use is to address both paper and plastic bag use.

What we have seen working well elsewhere is Option 3 from the BPS October 2012 report to Council. We believe that the best approach to this issue is one that bans the use of plastic bags at the checkout line **and** places a fee on the use of paper checkout bags.

Such a policy helps motivate consumers to remember to bring their reusable bags, which is the ultimate goal here. And although the BPS report from last month showed a commendable increase in reusable bag use in the last year, it also clearly showed that many consumers merely switched from one product to another, as paper bag use increased by nearly 500% during that time. Both paper and plastic bags have an impact on our environment.

As BPS also noted in its report, when a nickel fee was placed on single-use checkout bags in Washington DC, the use of those bags – both plastic and paper – decreased by 80% in a single year. The report further notes the many cities up and down the West Coast – including Eugene and Corvallis – that have both banned plastic checkout bags and added fees for paper bags for the simple reason that it is the approach that works best.

In short, Recycling Advocates is certainly supportive of City Council's intention to expand the current plastic bag ban. But we must also note that this should not be viewed as the final solution to the problem and that it will be incumbent on Council to revisit this issue. If we truly want to put a real dent in the use of single-use checkout bags and to substantially increase the use of reusable bags in our city, we will need to join our neighbors in Eugene and Corvallis and implement something resembling Option 3 from the BPS report. And we need a strong across-the-board educational effort to accompany the policy; RA is happy to continue to help with that endeavor.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present this testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Representative sample of petition cards submitted by Sarah Higginbotham, Environmental Oregon. 11-15-12

## KEEP PLASTIC OUT OF THE PACIFIC



Dear Portland City Councilors,

For decades, billions of pounds of plastic garbage have been carried by wind and waves into the Pacific. All this plastic has formed the Pacific Garbage Patch, a toxic soup of trash swirling off our coast. It's an environmental disaster for ocean wild life. Tens of thousands of sea turtles, whales, birds, and seals die every year from contact with plastic pollution.

Portland took a good first step by banning single-use plastic bags at some stores, but we can do better. **I urge you to reduce the flow of plastic pollution into the ocean and encourage reusable bags by expanding Portland's bag ban.**



Sincerely,

Print name: Pamela Dailey

Street: 5017 N. AMHERST

City: PORTLAND State: OR Zip: 97203

Email: pambob@pcez.com

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,

Print name: Jim Golik

Street: 6442 N. YALE

City: PORT State: OR Zip: 97203

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:  541 324 2710 Volunteer?

185737

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Sincerely,  
Print name: Corvin Casper  
Street: 5427 N Yale  
City: Portland State: OR Zip: 97203  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,  
Print name: MARY Jo MARTINA  
Street: 5130 N YALE  
City: PORTLAND State: OR Zip: 97203  
Email: MARTINA@AOL  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,  
Print name: Tyler Hawkins  
Street: 5426 N Amherst  
City: Portland State: WA Zip: 97203  
Email: tj.hawk@hotmail.com  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,  
Print name: Bethany Sills  
Street: 4922 N. Yale St.  
City: Portland State: OR Zip: 97203  
Email: sellingbooksbethany@gmail.com  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,

Print name: Megan Hass

Street: 4779 N. Amherst St.

City: Portland State: OR Zip: 97203

Email: hassselinelove@gmail.com

Phone: 503 450-7166 Volunteer?

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Sincerely,

Print name: Tanner Devereux

Street: 3457 N. Yale

City: Portland State: OR Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: frediscoolad@yahoo

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,

Print name: Charles P. Fall

Street: 5758 SW 39th Ave.

City: Portland State: OR Zip: 97221

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer?

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Sincerely,

Print name: Joe Vacarella

Street: 5007 N. Princeton

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Photos  
Submitted by  
Sarah Higginbotham  
11-15-2012





























