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Statement by James H. Stewart, Panorama City Ca. to LA City Council Energy & Environment Committee June 16, 2013

This EIR is inadequate in 3 areas and should not be certified.

1. There is no analysis of the replacement bags for the secondary uses of the banned bags. A very large number of paper and plastic bags of various kinds will have to be purchased by LA residents to replace those secondary uses. A situation that will, in all likelihood completely eliminate the supposed benefit of this ordinance. One could even dispute the labeling of the band bags as "single-use" because for most of us, they are not single use.

2. The transportation analysis only deals with trucks delivering the alternate bags. A wash. There is no analysis or even acknowledgement of the increase in Auto traffic that will, and in fact has already, been the result of this program. People are going to the market more often and buying less each trip. Rather than a bi-weekly mega buy, people, including myself (yes. I do use the alternate bags most of the time) are now coming to the market 2 or 3 times a week and buying on one or two bags of groceries. A Significant increase in auto related pollution will result and must be included in this EIR.

3. There is no life cycle analysis of the alternate bags. I looked at my own stock, 17 had not label, 1 was made in the US, and 14 were made overseas, mostly in China, and even the bag from the LA Dept. of Sanitation was made in PAKISTAN. If the city cannot find a domestic supplier, how can you expect anyone else too? Not only will this shift jobs overseas, to areas with little or

6/17/13
EJE

Date: _____
Submitted in _____ Committee

Council File No: 11-1531

Item No.: 1

Deputy: Villanueva
Public

no environmental controls, you will be solving your pollution problem by creating a pollution problem somewhere else, this is irresponsible, unethical and violates the stated reasons for doing this in the first place. Further the transportation of these bags to the US will be a major source of pollution and worsen the trade deficit.

Lastly this EIR is a hatchet job design not to give a true analysis of the effects of the ordinance, but designed only to support it. It has many unsupported assumptions and estimates that make the analysis useless. Translating the experience in a community of 96, 000 to what will happen with a population of 7 million is not statistically valid.

Even if CEQA does not require these analysis, you should, you must. If you do not you are making a decision with incomplete and potential biased data. Your duty to the people of Los Angeles is to put your egos aside and conduct a full and proper analysis before adopting this ordinance.



June 14, 2013

The Honorable Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: COUNCIL FILE # 11-1531 SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS / CITY POLICY

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my concerns of a plastic bag ban proposal in Los Angeles. As the general manager of a plastic bag manufacturing company that employs 300 Angelenos, I understand the impacts of a ban on our product better than almost anyone out there. Unfortunately this debate has focused less on the facts and impacts to Los Angeles workers and more on misguided environmental rhetoric. The truth is that a plastic bag ban in Los Angeles will send a terrible message to companies like mine, Crown Poly, that have been proven job creators. Moreover, this ordinance will not solve the litter issue and will only turn shoppers to options that are actually worse for the environment.

Contrary to comments made by Councilmembers and Department of Public Works staff at a recent LA City hearing, a plastic bag ban in Los Angeles would risk a number of jobs. It would also send the message to the Los Angeles' manufacturing community: the city does not value jobs nor job creators. Expand elsewhere. Employ elsewhere. Unlike Chico Bags and Green Bags who import reusable bags from China, we make our bags here in Huntington Park with manufacturing workers, as well as office and sales staff that live in Los Angeles. Nearly one out of every ten Angelenos is currently unemployed and I ask that the Council considers the message that this ordinance would send to the Crown Poly family.

At a recent press conference we hosted at our facility, a longtime member of our team spoke against similar legislation that would have covered all of California. Elicia Ortiz has worked at Crown Poly for years, and relies on our continued success to provide health insurance that alleviates the financial burden that her daughter's health condition would otherwise impose. People like Elicia may not get as much press as Bette Midler, but there are 2,000 of them in California that rely on our industry to put food on the table. Elicia and 300 Angelenos like her are looking to their City Council to do the right thing.

Flawed as this legislation's message is, it is not the only problem. The little-known fact is that plastic bags are actually better for the environment than paper or reusable bags. Plastic bags were originally invented to avoid destroying trees just to carry home some groceries and emit fewer greenhouse gases throughout their lifecycles because they require significantly less energy to produce. Many of the fashionable reusable bags are actually just another form of plastic, but are made with oil, (not natural gas, like the bags that American companies like Crown Poly produce) and cannot be recycled. We import 500 million of these bags every year, faster than we can use them, meaning many of them end up in landfills. The bottom line is plastic bags are the better alternative.

Banning a product that thousands of people rely on for their livelihoods on environmental grounds is something that deserves serious thought, attention to the facts and a careful weighing of benefits and harms. When the product is actually the better environmental alternative, harming an industry like ours is flat out wrong. This ordinance will also not save on your litter budget because plastic bags are less than 1% of litter – it did not save the litter budget in San Francisco nor in Long Beach, both of which have plastic bag bans. Elicia and everyone at Crown Poly are looking to their City Council to examine the facts, do the right thing and protect Los Angeles jobs by rejecting this misguided legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Browne'.

Catherine Browne and the Crown Poly family
Cathy Browne is the general manager of Crown Poly, a Los Angeles plastic bag manufacturer

ECHO PARK TAP (Trash Abatement Project). P.O. Box 26110, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Working with the goal to keep trash and pollutants out of Storm Drains, the LA River and ocean.

To: The Honorable members of the Energy and Environment Committee:

Chairman: Council Member, Jose Huizar
Members: Council Member Dennis Zine
Council Member Richard Alarcon
Council member Paul Koretz
Council Member Tom LaBonge

From: Ida Talalla
Founder-Coordinator, Echo Park TAP



Date: June 17, 2013.

Re: File No: 11-1531. Ban on Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags

Before this Committee is an issue that needs to be addressed to reduce the disposal cost to city, blight in communities and impacts on the environment just to name a few of the many considerations. Your help is sought to take a measure that will address this matter. Please vote to ban the use of single use plastic shopping bags in Los Angeles City.

I so want to make a statement in public but I am not well enough at the moment. As such, please accept this written plea to you to support this ban that many, including Heal The Bay and many at City level have worked so diligently on.

My own experience with encounters with the devastation and impacts of the plastic bags are many. But one encounter shook me to the core. In 2012, I was at an LA River Clean Up. Looking down on the river bed from high ground, as far as the eyes could see were plastic shopping bags gracing every branch and twig from river bed level to the high water mark during a flash flood. The plastic bags looked like ripped prayer flags from hell from base to the flood line at around 10 or 15 feet. One such bag entangled in the thorns of a palm frond took 10 minutes to remove. What I encountered when trying to remove bags embedded in the river bed was an eye opener. I merely had to touch the bag and it disintegrated into miniscule fragments. The harder I tried the more it shattered its brittle self. But worse, underneath, at some deeper level were more bags...

Plastics have begun to enter our food source, long blighted our communities and environment. The costs to address this rising steeply. The time to act is now and your help will make a difference.

With thanks,



c.c.LA City Council Member CD 13 & Mayor -Elect Eric Garcetti
LA City Council President, Herb Wesson Jr.
LA City Council Member & President Pro Tempore, Ed Reyes