



CF # 11-1531

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April 12, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Villaraigosa
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3239
Via Fax: (213) 978-0650

RE: SUPPORT - Single-use Bag Ban

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

I write to urge your support of a single-use bag ban as soon as possible in the City of Los Angeles. The action would complement your recent successes to green Los Angeles, such as passage of the Low Impact Development Ordinance and the sewer rate increase. The Energy and Environment Committee recently unanimously voted to move forward a proposal to ban single-use plastic bags and phase-out single-use paper bags in the City of Los Angeles. You have been an effective champion of this issue statewide, and now is the time for Los Angeles to set an example for the entire nation.

The environmental and economic impacts of single-use bag pollution in inland and coastal communities throughout our City are devastating. Californians use an estimated 12 billion single-use plastic bags every year. The City of San Francisco estimated that to clean up, recycle, and landfill plastic bags costs the city 17 cents per bag. This figure does not include all of the energy costs associated with producing single-use bags, or the negative environmental, economic and public health costs associated with single-use bag litter.

Despite efforts to expand recycling programs, less than 5% of single-use plastic bags are currently being recycled. The rest of these bags end up in our landfills or as litter, clogging stormdrain systems, and making their way to our waterways and ocean.

The City of Los Angeles has a critical role to play in becoming a true leader in eliminating single-use bag waste and preventing the proliferation of plastic pollution in our communities. Thus we urge you to lead the effort to move forward a single-use bag ban expeditiously in the City of Los Angeles to help fulfill your goal of the cleanest, greenest big city in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Foster', is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Foster
President
1 Bag at a Time, Inc
P. 310.649.3888

cc: Councilmember Paul Koretz, fax 213-978-2250