



Public domain opinion letters to please forward to City Council File Number 11-1531. (My own OPPOSE entry was posted on December 7, by the way)

1 message

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Dear Los Angeles City Council members:

In case you missed it, I thought you would/should be interested in some January 6, 2013, public domain letters to the Los Angeles Daily News that likely express how the vast, "silent majority" of Los Angeles residents—including myself—feel about a city &/or state plastic bag ban! (To be fair, I included the one, last letter—out of a total of five—that supports such a ban.):

Letters to the Los Angeles Daily News Editor for Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013:

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should state seek a ban on single-use plastic bags?

Freedom of choice

I'm really sick of so many things getting banned. It's becoming ridiculous. Government seems to be becoming more and more like a dictatorship. I really don't understand the issue with plastic grocery bags. There are many other "single" use plastic bags (e.g. Ziploc bags, trash bags, etc.). Do we ban all of those? And, why should retailers be required to charge 10 cents for paper bags? It was bad enough that California decided to ban trans fats. Where's freedom of choice and personal responsibility?

- Sharon Goodberry, Palos Verdes

Reusing single-use bags

I use the plastic bags I carry groceries home in to hold the "wet" garbage I take out to the black bins for weekly pickup by the garbage trucks. I also reuse some bags to carry groups of items from home to vehicle, from fruit tree to home, etc. I am sure others reuse the "single use" bags in similar manners. So, what are we to use for our garbage take-out bags when the grocery store no longer is allowed to provide them? Paper bags will not hold "wet" garbage long enough to get from the house to the black bin.

- William J. Stewart, Sun Valley

Controlling our lives

This whole fad of banning plastic bags has got to be one of the most hypocritical on the planet. If you want

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to ban plastic bags, why not ban garbage bags, shrink-wrapped items, plastic salad dressing bottles, Tupperware items, kids' toys, CD jewel cases and plastic rulers? I get bottled water every month that comes in huge plastic containers. Should they go back to using glass containers now? Is this ban hurting the grocery stores in Long Beach? I reluctantly would like to know that it is, but only because then the stores will send a message to the

Long Beach City Council to get them to stop this practice. Most importantly, I would like to think that the citizens of Long Beach are intelligent enough to realize that little things like this are just another way to regulate their lives. Don't misunderstand me; if you want to use a cloth bag, by all means, do so. But a city must not command legislation to force people to do so.

- Dave Champagne, Belmont Shore

A hemp alternative

There is a third alternative to the plastic bag crisis that could be win-win for all. Make plastic bags from hemp, since the intelligent use of cannabis is being accepted in many new aspects across this great land. Industrial hemp makes a better plastic than petroleum because it is biodegradable, and instead of choking sea life with trashy petroleum bags we could be feeding them with healthy biodegradable hemp bags. And you could also be fertilizing plant life with the hemp as well.

- William Perron, El Monte

Environmental extremists

A potential statewide plastic bag ban is yet another of the endless assaults on people's desires for improved quality of life through technology. For decades now, almost every product mankind has developed to be more efficient and effective in our daily lives - soap, paint, gasoline, deodorant, plastic bags, you name it - has been eliminated or modified based on the eternal whining of environmentalists. Huge setbacks in the conveniences of life and vastly increased costs (gas prices!) to industry and, in turn, citizens, have resulted. For what? So environmental extremists can sleep better at night thinking their minuscule and inconsequential impact on the Earth was worth the cost and inconvenience to the rest of us?

John Biel, Lakewood

And the above said one out of five letters that supports such a ban follows below (By the way, since the Los Angeles Daily News itself has editorially called for such bans, it would seem very likely that the ration of 5-1 residents OPPOSING them reflects the way most of your independent thinking constituents feel about such a ban or bans.)

Bags in strange places

I hope to see the demise of single-use plastic bags in short order. I have to constantly pick these elusive items from my cactuses and trees year-round as the wind blows incessantly and puts the bags in strange places. Near our church, the neighbors rarely put the lids down on their trash bins and I have to go along our fence line picking up their trash that ends up alongside that fence. Much of that trash is plastic bags. Using reusable bags at the grocery and other stores is easy and allows me to carry a lot more with comfort.

- Richard Rorex, Apple Valley

My comments: The most common resable bags, ones with polyethelene in them, have tiny "wash and dry" instruction labels attached to them. That's probably because they clearly (using a magnifying glass) state that to correctly machine wash them one must only use the machine's "delicate" items setting. And not to use bleach. Plus, to air-dry only. That means that they cannot just be "washed with one's underwear", because such white items require a use of the "regular" machine wash settings, as well as optimally with added chlorine bleach---in order to get them truly clean.

Now, the state law that blocked a charge for plastic bags recently expired. So, if a, say, ten cents a plastic bag charge were implemented, five cents of it could be used to re-imburse those who gathered up unsoiled plastic bags and brought them to our ubiquitous "cans and bottles" recycling centers---in lieu of their just being thrown away in our land-fill-bound trash cans and dumpsters.

Thank you for your consideration accordingly.

Harvey Pearson

Los Feliz