



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

Single Use Bag Ordinance - SUPPORT

1 message

vanessa hughes <nessasaur@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 13, 2011 at 5:03 PM

Reply-To: nessasaur@gmail.com

To: maria.espinoza@lacity.org

Dear Chair Perry and Committee Members,

I strongly urge you to support an ordinance in Los Angeles City that bans single-use plastic bags while restricting single-use paper bags. Let's stop plastic bag pollution and refuse to be bullied by the plastic industry.

As a taxpayer, I'm alarmed to find out that City, along with other municipalities statewide, spends more than \$25 million each year to clean up plastic single-use bags from public places, storm drains, and in our waste stream. Caltrans alone spends \$60 million a year on street cleanup of litter. Local taxpayer dollars are also spent to comply with Stormwater Permit requirements and other standards in communities with "trash-impaired" waterways as defined under the federal Clean Water Act. The proposed ordinance would help lower cleanup costs in these tough economic times.

In addition to the economic benefits of a plastic bag ban, there are countless environmental benefits. These include reduced use of natural resources for bag production, reduced wildlife fatalities from strangulation and suffocation, and improved water quality. For all intents and purposes, plastic never biodegrades; instead it slowly photo degrades. As it photo degrades, plastic film breaks into smaller and smaller pieces which attract surrounding toxins. When mistaken as a food source, these plastic particles form a progressively greater health risk of food chain contamination.

It's a win for the environment as well as the economy. Please take a stand and support an ordinance on single-use bags.

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