

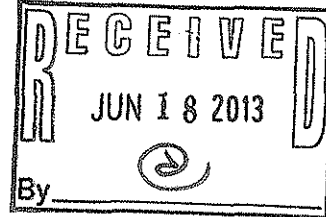


June 13, 2013

Council President Herb J. Wesson  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St., Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Plastic Bag Legislation in Los Angeles City

Dear Council President Wesson,



On behalf of Crown Poly, a California-based plastic bag and film manufacturer – we strongly urge you to oppose the proposal to ban plastic grocery bags and implement a 10-cent tax on paper grocery bags. We are proud employees of the plastic bag manufacturing and recycling industry – an industry that represents and supports 30,800 Americans and their families, including 2,000 hardworking Californians, more than 1,000 of whom are based in Los Angeles.

We appreciate the City Council's efforts to reduce litter, but bag ordinances could cripple job growth, unfairly impact small businesses, and produce no benefits to the environment or for consumers. As the California Integrated Waste Management Board has pointed out, plastic retail bags accounted for only four-tenths of one percent of the state's waste stream. Targeting a single product that makes up only a tiny portion of a much broader issue is not going to yield a significant reduction in litter. Instead it will drive up costs and force California consumers to use less-sustainable options to carry goods – options which are *worse* for the environment.

For instance, plastic bags are 100 percent recyclable, whereas reusable bag alternatives are not. Both reusable and paper bags are more resource-intensive to manufacture and their impact on the environment is worse. Instead of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this ordinance will generate more emissions by increasing the use of alternative bags.

This ordinance also ignores the concerns of small businesses and imposes unacceptable burdens on the "mom and pop" shops that make this city run. The reporting requirements that the legislation imposes add more red tape and further burden business owners. Counting the number of paper bags provided and presenting quarterly reporting adds no value to business owners, shoppers or the environment. If Los Angeles wants to attract business and expand growth, it cannot continue adding red tape, especially in already lean economic times.

Manufacturing jobs provide important economic benefits to the surrounding L.A. community. Los Angeles' city government should be working to expand manufacturing jobs for its citizens, not threatening them. And while these efforts may be well-intentioned, it is the wrong approach and will not yield the economic or environmental benefits as intended. A solution already exists through recycling.

We ask the City Council to please protect our jobs and support our industry by voting "No" on anti-bag legislation.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maintenance Mechanic

CC:

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
City Controller Wendy Greuel  
Council President Pro Tempore Ed Reyes  
Council Member Paul Krekorian  
Council Member Dennis Zine  
Council Member Tom LaBonge  
Council Member Paul Koretz

Council Member Richard Alarcon  
Council Member Bernard Parks  
Council Member Jan Perry  
Council Member Bill Rosendahl  
Council Member Mitchell Englander  
Council Member Eric Garcetti  
Council Member Jose Huizar