



Heal the Bay

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May 15, 2014

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**Re: City of Los Angeles Support for SB 270 Statewide Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (Resolution 14-0002-554)**

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of Heal the Bay, a nonprofit environmental group with over 15,000 members, we strongly support SB 270 and the Resolution for the City of Los Angeles to include SB 270 in its 2013-2014 State Legislative support Program. As an organization dedicated to making California's coastal waters and watersheds safe, healthy, and clean for people and aquatic life, we are concerned with the environmental and economic impacts of plastic bag pollution in inland and coastal communities throughout the state. As a leader on the issue of ridding our environment of wasteful single-use products, the City of Los Angeles should extend its support to statewide efforts that build from your work and experience.

Each year in California more than 13 billion single-use plastic bags are distributed by retailers. The environmental and economic impacts are great. A study commissioned by the US Marine Debris Monitoring Program identified plastic bags to be one of the top ten items found consistently during beach cleanups. Additionally, the Convention on Biological Diversity reports that more than 660 species have been affected by plastic marine pollution either through ingestion or entanglement. Currently, California spends nearly \$25 million a year to landfill discarded bags. This figure does not account for the additional money spent for clean-up. Banning the use of single-use plastic bags will allow these financial resources to be used for other public services.

As you are aware on January 1, 2014 the City of Los Angeles became the largest city in the nation to ban single-use plastic bags at select retailers. Passing the single-use plastic bag ban in Los Angeles was a significant milestone towards creating a more sustainable city. Los Angeles is a leader in environmental stewardship; this leadership is needed to pass a statewide single-use plastic bags ban. One third of California has already passed laws phasing out the use of single-use plastic bags. It is time for the other two thirds of the State to catch up.

A statewide ban would build on the prudent policy developed in Los Angeles and would create legislative uniformity for cities in California. Thus, we urge the City of Los Angeles to include SB 270 in its 2013-2014 State Legislative SUPPORT Program

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten James".

Kirsten James
Science and Policy Director, Water Quality