



733 Summer Street Suite 601 Stamford CT 06901 Telephone: 203.359.4761 Fax: 203.363.5069
www.stamfordchamberofcommerce.com

July 27, 2018

Mr. Benjamin Lee
Chair
Legislative & Rules Committee
Board of Representatives
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901

RE: LR30.019 Ordinance, Restricting Single-Use Plastic Shopping Bags in Stamford

Dear Mr. Lee,

On behalf of the Chamber Board, we encourage the Board of Representatives to explore options to make Stamford an environmental friendly city concerning single-use plastic bags. Unlike many other products made of nonrenewable fossil fuels, single-use plastic throwaway bags are easily replaced. Instead of retailers using the single-use plastic bags, an alternative for retailers may be to use bags made from compostable or marine degradable material, including paper, or encourage customers to bring reusable bags from home.

Unlike natural products that biodegrade, we never get rid of the polyethylene in plastic bags. These bags float in the ocean and waterways harming wildlife, litter the city and surrounding neighborhoods and are costly for municipalities and recycling centers to manage.

For these reasons, stated above, the Chamber recommends that restrictions and or possibly a ban on single-use plastic bags should be explored. A citywide campaign marketed towards "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bag) could be a way to implement and educate both the retailers and consumers on the importance of the impact in reducing waste in our community. The initial impact may provide additional costs to the retailers eventually affecting the consumers cost of goods. We suggest that adequate time is given for the retail stores to clear out their existing inventory supply of single-use plastic bags to minimize the cost.

Sincerely,

Heather Cavanagh
President & CEO
Stamford Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Stamford Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee