



Representative Jacobson  
Stamford Board of Representatives  
888 Washington Blvd  
Stamford, CT 06904

Dear Representative Jacobson:

Please accept our congratulations on the passage of your bag ordinance! We attended the proceedings last Monday and were very impressed by your knowledge of and commitment to helping end plastic dependency.

BYODarien asks that you reconsider your minimum plastic bag thickness as you and your committee go through drafting changes to increase it to 12 mil for plastic carry bags.

To make a bag ordinance truly unassailable, we believe it is critical to set the mil requirement for what constitutes a plastic bag subject to the ordinance high enough to preclude the unscrupulous manufacture of bags thicker than specified in the ordinance.

We understand that some towns with lower mil requirements are revisiting their ordinance mil thickness. The Surfrider Foundation is helping towns accomplish this. See <https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/closing-plastic-reusable-bag-loopholes>. If an ordinance eliminates plastic bags of less than 12 mil thickness, this end-running should be precluded because, by definition, any bag of 12 mil thickness or more, is a reusable bag.

We are aware that certain manufacturers are simply producing thicker plastic bags for Suffolk County and other towns that have a 2.25 mil specification in their ordinances, thereby end-running those ordinances. At its worse, an ordinance with a low mil requirement for plastic bags and a charge for recycled paper bags, could result in a default to these thicker plastic bags – a result, many would argue, that is worse for the environment and our health than the state of affairs without an ordinance.

BYO Greenwich also undertook extensive research on the optimal mil requirement for the Greenwich ordinance that became operative in early September. The Greenwich ordinance eliminates plastic bags of less than 12 mil. Their research indicated that while most grocery stores likely would not use a bag of more than 3 - 4 mil, other boutique-type stores use plastic bags of up to 10 mil. Greenwich researched around 25 companies worldwide and found that the thickest non-reusable bag was 11 mil.

Our Darien Ordinance, as proposed, would phase-out plastic bags of less than 12 mil thickness (and non-recycled paper bags) and includes a 10 cents fee for a recycled paper bag.

Accordingly, to defend the intent of your ordinance and to cover bags across multiple retailers, we would urge you to consider increasing the mil requirement in the Stamford ordinance to 12 mil.

Thank you for considering our suggestion.

Very truly yours,

Juliet Cain  
BYODarien

Paola Sordoni  
BYODarien

Lucia Zachowski  
BYODairen

Cc Representative Lee, Chair of Legislative and Rules Committee

*A local plastic management initiative.*