



January 21, 2019

Stamford Board of Representatives  
Attention: Chairman Benjamin Lee

Dear Chairman Lee:

My name is Betty Ball. I grew up in Stamford and am a graduate of Stamford High School. I now live in Norwalk and as a founding member of Skip the Plastic Norwalk, I fully support the amendment to the Stamford Bag Ban Ordinance raising the legal standard of a plastic bag from 2.25mil to 12mil. With Norwalk having recently passed an ordinance banning plastic bags under 12mil, we hope Stamford will amend theirs because we are stronger together.

Why an amendment to prevent plastic bags under 12mil?

- In South Hampton, NY within a month of passing a plastic checkout bag ban banning 2.25 mil plastic and less, Citarella stores were using 4 mil disposable plastic bags. Imagine if that happens in Stamford. The taxpayers will have almost twice as much plastic to dispose of, twice as much clogging storm drains and working their way into the Long Island Sound.
- At 12 mil there are no known "work around" plastic checkout bags being manufactured. There are bags available at less than 12 mil.
- The purpose of plastic bag ban ordinances is to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags. It is not to create a loophole allowing the proliferation of thicker disposable bags.
- Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which requires 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture. Thicker bags use more natural resources to manufacture.
- They still will not be recyclable in blue bins.
- They still will clog drains and pollute Long Island Sound and waterways.
- They still will cost municipalities to "manage," which is getting more expensive given the sheer volume of plastic that is piling up. Once a source of revenue, it's now costing cities to get rid of plastic trash.
- They still will be used for an average of 12 minutes.
- The percentage returned to retail locations that accept plastic bags still will be somewhere in the single digits.
- Municipalities in states that have banned plastic carryout bags under 2.25 mil thickness such as Sonoma, CA are seeing a GROWING waste problem because thicker, heavier plastic bags are being marketed as "recyclable" when trash haulers still will not accept them, the exact opposite of what was intended.

Perhaps most critical, anything under 12mil does not solve source reduction. Anything less subverts the intention of the ordinance and in doing so, does a disservice to our communities, state, and most important of all, to future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about why this amendment should be passed. Our children and children's children will thank us.

Sincerely,  
Betty Ball  
[Skiptheplasticnorwalk.org](http://Skiptheplasticnorwalk.org)