



June 21, 2018



Stamford Board of Representatives
888 Washington Blvd, 4th Floor, PO Box 10152
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

RE: Stamford Needs a Comprehensive Single-Use Bag Policy

Dear Board of Representatives Members,

Our organizations are delighted with the interest and efforts put forth by Stamford to address the plastic pollution issue. Some of us have been hard at work to address this issue in many communities across our state before.

The undersigned groups strongly support this committee's efforts to ban single-use plastic bags and establish a charge on all other single-use checkout bags. We are encouraged to see the committee moving forward with a strong policy proposal; however, we believe that L&R members would benefit greatly from additional input at this time. We believe there are many lessons to be learned from neighboring municipalities that have already addressed this issue. In particular, we would like to address questions related to bag thickness, language exempting certain types of commercial plastic bags and other issues related to "compostable" and "biodegradable" plastics.

Some of our organizations have conducted extensive research on all of these issues, and share a wealth of experience in passing legislation to address plastic pollution by banning and/or establishing a charge on plastic bags. We understand that the L&R committee has invited a representative from the grocer's industry to speak to the issue of bag thickness, and potentially to offer guidance to the committee on other issues. We believe that it would be advantageous for the committee to also seek the perspective of the conservation community on these matters. **We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with and deliver a short presentation to L&R committee members as soon as possible.** We recommend inviting Louis W. Burch from the Citizens Campaign for the Environment to meet with members of the L&R committee, at your earliest availability.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to working with the committee on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Samira Siskind (samirafink@hotmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

BYO Stamford
BYO Greenwich
Individuals involved in the Westport ordinance dated 2008
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Women on Watch
Innovate Stamford
SoundWaters
Surfrider Foundation, CT Chapter