

**From:** [Marie Hawe](#)  
**To:** [Board of Representatives](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 12:48:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [PlasticBagBanTestimony.9.2018.docx](#)

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Greetings,

I will not be able to attend the Public Hearing tonight on the proposed Ordinance banning single-use plastic bags. Therefore I have attached my testimony to this email and ask that it be circulated among the Legislative and Rules Committee members as well as the entire Board membership.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marie Hawe  
20 Allison Road  
Stamford, CT 06902

*Marie J. Hawe, L.C.S.W.*  
*20 Allison Road*  
*Stamford, Connecticut 06902*  
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[mhawe@optonline.net](mailto:mhawe@optonline.net)

September 19, 2018

Members of the Legislative and Rules Committee  
Stamford Board of Representatives  
Stamford Government Center  
888 Washington Blvd.  
Stamford, CT 06902

Dear Committee Members:

Thirty-five years ago I sat where you sit now, as a Representative of the First District on Stamford's Board of Representatives. I know that many issues come before the Board, and I also know how you struggle to take into account differing and conflicting viewpoints, and try to do what is best for the City of Stamford that we all love.

I believe that the issue of banning single-use plastic bags is one of the most critical to come before the Board of Reps in recent years. We all have read and heard how damaging plastic is to the environment, especially those items (like bags, straws, etc.) that are only used one time.

I am proud to join with other members of Women on Watch (WOW), a Stamford grassroots political advocacy group, in supporting this proposed Ordinance.

According to the Hartford Courant, one billion plastic bags are used in Connecticut each year. And the New York State Plastic Bag Task Force estimates that 100,000 end up in Long Island Sound annually.

I am so proud of our City for being in the forefront of this issue and urge my Representatives to approve the proposed Ordinance as written. I support the charge for a paper bag, because without that provision we could merely be substituting overuse of paper bags for overuse of plastic. It is a critical element of the Ordinance that will help change consumer behavior.

I commend you for including the exemption from the charge for those individuals who are on the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or similar program.

Thank you all for your efforts on this issue. Banning single-use plastic bags has worked in towns in our state and around the country. It will work in Stamford too!

Sincerely,

*Marie J. Hawe*

**From:** [Joan Kranz](#)  
**To:** [Board of Representatives](#)  
**Subject:** Bring Your Own Bag!  
**Date:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:11:33 AM

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Hello:

We are writing to let you know that I am in favor of a bill that prevents the continued use of plastic bags. We are all aware that plastic bags clog storm drains, dirty our streets and contribute to unnecessary landfull waste. Approximately, 380 billion plastic bags are used in our nation every year. That is more than 1,200 bags per person per year!

According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, when the city of San Jose started charging \$.10/bag, they saw a 90% reduction in bag usage and saved \$1million by not having to repair municipal recycling equipment that previously got jammed with plastic bags.

We understand that the additional cost of a bag might be difficult for some of our citizens so that we hope food stamps participants might be exempt from the charge. We believe that a Bring Your Own Bag ordinance will grow in popularity and we will see more and more of our citizens carrying their own reusable bags.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Joan and Jerry Kranz  
516 Pepper Ridge Road  
Stamford

**From:** [Kate Munno](#)  
**To:** [Board of Representatives](#)  
**Subject:** In support of the plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 12:34:50 PM

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Hi!

I've lived in Stamford for 14 years, and after seeing plastic bag bans implemented in some neighboring towns (Westport, for example), I started an experiment with my family starting January 1, 2018. We made a pledge to only use reusable bags for all of our shopping (food, clothing, etc). To date, the four of us have only taken 8 non-reusable bags. Once you get in the habit, it's surprisingly easy to adapt to using your own bags. I think the stamford businesses would save some money (or make some if they sell reusable bags for those that forgot theirs), the landfills would benefit, as would the environment as a whole. Sure, it's a little daunting to think about, and there will be plenty of complaints until people get into the groove, but for the good of the city and our little corner of the earth, we can make this easy change to benefit all.

Sincerely,  
Kate Munno  
North Stamford Road  
Katemunno15@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Harriet Weinstein](#)  
**To:** [Board of Representatives](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting plastic ban ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 2:42:56 PM

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I strongly support the plastic ban ordinance, the hybrid model, which requires a charge for the paper bag. Banning plastic bags would serve many important environmental goals at minimum or no cost to the City. Minimizing plastic bag use would help to reduce the use of oil which is required to manufacture the plastic bags; reduce the greenhouse gases generated by their manufacture; and minimize unsightly plastics bags in our trees, on our streets, parks, rivers, and LI Sound. It would also reduce the impact on wildlife, particularly marine animals, some of which mistakenly consume the plastic and sicken and die.

The charge for a paper bag would provide an incentive for consumers to bring their own reusable bags and minimize the number of paper bags being used. Without a charge for paper bags there would be a large increase in paper bag use. Increased paper bag use creates its own environmental problems which include heavy loads of paper bags being shipped in trucks, adding additional trucks to our overcrowded highways and the attendant increased gasoline use and tailpipe emissions that would go along with that. Increased use of paper bags would be a burden on retailers, who would have to store and manage these heavy, bulky items.

Plastic ban programs is successful in many towns and cities. Consumers routinely bring their own bags, and are happy to be contributing to doing something good for the environment at little to no expense and effort.

Thank you  
Harriet Weinstein

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