

From: [Lee, Benjamin](#)
To: [Judith Liebeskind](#)
Cc: [Rosenson, Valerie](#)
Subject: Re: Letter to Legislative & Rules Committee-Plastic Bag Ban
Date: Monday, December 17, 2018 1:27:26 PM

Dear Judith,

Thank you very much for writing. I have cc'ed Valerie Rosenson, the Legislative Aide to the Board, to enter your letter into our record for Tuesday.

Best regards,

Ben

Benjamin Lee
Stamford Board of Representatives
District 15 Representative
203-614-9366
blee@stamfordct.gov

From: Judith Liebeskind <judyliebeskind@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, December 15, 2018 6:53:54 AM
To: Lee, Benjamin
Subject: Letter to Legislative & Rules Committee-Plastic Bag Ban

Dear Representative Lee;

Thank you so much for your Committee's work on the ordinance to ban plastic bags with a ten cent fee for paper bags. Women On Watch (WOW) is very pleased that the Board of Reps passed this ordinance and we are proud that Stamford is the first City in Connecticut to impose a fee for the paper bag. WOW favors the exemption of the fee for paper bags for those on food assistance programs, but we are opposed to exemptions for those on Medicare, Medicaid, or COBRA health coverage. We believe that these exemptions will unnecessarily undermine the program, while providing minimal to no benefit. Instead, it would probably add to paper bag use, which is in itself an adverse environmental impact. Since reusable bags will likely be distributed to everyone who wants one, there is no reason for these exemptions from the fee for a paper bag.

In addition, it would add confusion to cashiers at checkout, who would be required to make a decision as to what constitutes "reasonable evidence." It will also cause annoying delays at checkouts while this determination is being made.

Most of us at WOW are grandmothers, and we welcome the opportunity to participate along with everyone else in helping to protect our environment. We are particularly enthusiastic about leaving behind a healthful environment for our grandchildren. And for those seniors that are of limited means, we believe that there will be many opportunities to obtain reusable bags for free.

We at WOW suggest that the exemption for "any customer that can provide reasonable evidence that said customer is reliant upon Medicare, Medicaid, or COBRA HEALTH COVERAGE" be stricken from the ordinance because it will:

1. Provide little to no benefit to anyone

2. Add confusion at checkout
3. Reduce the effectiveness of the program
4. Adversely impact the environment
5. Discourage the idea of "reuse"

Thank you

Judith Liebeskind
Women on Watch (WOW)
203-329-9876