

From: [Greg O'Neill](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Plastic Bags
Date: Friday, September 28, 2018 7:59:05 PM

Hello,

My name is Greg O'Neill and I am a resident of Stamford (19 Lanark). I am very interested in the issue of plastic bags in that I have spent a great deal of time over the past several years helping to clean up and keep clean Czeszik Park. We have probably taken out about 300 bags of trash over this time. A lot of debris flows from the city streets into the Czeszik estuary due to the fact that the water that flows onto city streets does not get treated and flows directly into the bay.

Anything that can be done to reduce trash including plastic bags should be done and has my support.

Greg O'Neill

Owner
Cartridge World Norwalk
247 Connecticut Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854
(203) 956-5915

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From: [Judith Liebeskind](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: VOTE YES FOR PLASTIC BAG BAN WITH CHARGE FOR PAPER BAG
Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018 1:12:48 PM



DEAR BOARD OF REPS:

I am Judy Liebeskind, Director of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust. We support Ordinance 30.019, which bans plastic bags at checkout with a 10 cent fee for brown bags. We support the exemptions for those who are on government assistance and for the exemptions for some types of plastic bags for use at delis, florists, and more. Some of the reasons we favor its passage are discussed below.

Our society has become a very highly consumptive, wasteful, throwaway society with old time habits such as repair, reuse, and repurpose having become practically obsolete. This excessive consumption and wasteful disposal are contributing factors behind many of our environmental and quality of life problems as well as higher taxes. The quality of our air, water, and land are being threatened as well as our government's ability to cope with problems from traffic, waste management, flooding, etc.. Management of these problems can be translated into higher costs and higher taxes.

One time use of plastic bags provided at the grocery is an example of an unnecessary, wasteful product, most of which end up in our streets, parks, and trees, clogging our drains, flowing into rivers and then into the LI Sound and the oceans, where they are mistakenly consumed by marine animals, who sicken and die. We at the Stamford Land Conservation Trust find them on many of our 54 properties, even those that get little to no human traffic. Some of these plastics are being consumed by fish that we ultimately consume. Could this be affecting our health?

If we wish to preserve a healthy quality of life and minimize tax increases we are going to have to make some changes. Surely, banning the one time use plastic bag at retail stores is one small step at the grocery store, but may be one big step toward steering our habits away from wasteful ones as we adjust to bringing our own bags.

Along with the ban on plastic bags we favor the 10 cent charge for the brown bag at checkout.

If they are given away at no charge, consumers will switch from plastic to paper, creating a big demand for brown bags. Brown bags may be worse than plastic for the environment. Their manufacture requires the cutting of trees, consumption of oil, and pollution of air and water. They are heavy and bulky and their shipment on our highways creates even more traffic and more tailpipe emissions, and contributes to deterioration of our roads. They may also create extra storage and handling problems for many retailers.

The charge for a paper bag is a huge incentive for the consumer to bring his/her own bag. It really works. I just returned from a trip to Iceland with my family, where there is a charge for all bags at the checkout. The prices for everything in Iceland are extremely high and the extra charge for the bag is minuscule in comparison to the purchase. Yet, all customers that we observed brought their own bags.

Please support this ordinance.

Thank you.

Judy Liebeskind, Director
Stamford Land Trust, Inc.

From: [Judith Liebeskind](#)
To: [McMullen, J.R.](#)
Cc: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance 30.019
Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018 7:35:07 PM

Letter to Representative McMullen in response to his letter (below), which states his position on the plastic bag ban:

Dear Representative McMullen;

It is a good idea for the Stamford Board of Representatives to pass ordinances that improve the quality of life for our citizens, reduce costs, and improve our health. Not only is it a good idea, it is probably its responsibility. Single use plastic bags that are given free at our grocery checkout are not really free but are incorporated into the pricing structure. Many of them litter our parks, roads, waterways. They end up in the bodies of fish, which mistakenly consume them, with some of these fish being consumed by us, plastic and all.

If we ban plastic bags and do not charge a fee for the brown bag, most people would simply take the free brown bag. This, too, is not really free, but is incorporated into the pricing structure. If there is a fee, it would be an incentive for consumers to bring their own bag. It would not take long for habits to change and for people to bring their own.

This would reduce litter, reduce pollution to the air and water, reduce the impact on choking turtles, birds and fish. It would reduce the costs of cleanups. It would minimize the transport of brown bags and the impacts on traffic.

As for reducing your degrees of freedom: isn't it better to adapt to a minor change in your life for the benefit of the welfare of the public? The systems are working very successfully all over Europe and in many cities across the United States.

Please vote to approve Ordinance 30.019, the hybrid plastic bag ban with a fee of 10 cents for brown bags. It would be a very small change with a great big benefit.

Thank you.

**Judith Liebeskind
Women On Watch (WOW)**

Here is the answer I got after I emailed my city rep, JR McMullen, Dist 18:

Hi Alexa,

I can't vote for the plastic bag ban and I don't think it is Stamford's place to impose a 10 cent charge for paper bags. If State legislators want to go down this path then that is where I believe the laws should be enacted. The state is in the position to impose something like the bottle deposit on plastic and paper bags if that is really what residents want. I do not believe it is or we would have more residents using recyclable bags today.

Anecdotally I was in the Grade A yesterday talking to Representative Jonathan Jacobson about this topic while we were standing in the checkout line. Jon is a big proponent of the ban. He was the only person, in all of the lines, using the reusable bags. My wife and I usually shop on Sundays after church and I have been watching and counting. Most people (including me) will take the reusable bags when the Grade A is giving them out for free but very few use them on a regular basis. I just don't believe residents are there yet. I don't think a very small minority should be able to force their perspective on everyone else. As far as our plastic bags go, they do get reused to clean the cat's litter box. If we didn't have the grocery store plastic bags we would be buying something similar to contain her waste.

Say we take this all the way, would you support a ban on plastic sandwich bags, produce bags, dry cleaning bags, or freezer bags? All have been discussed as next steps.

From: [Laura DePreta](#)
To: [Judith Liebeskind](#); [McMullen, J.R.](#); [Board of Representatives](#)
Cc: [Joan Krantz](#); [roslyn nesin](#)
Subject: Re: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance 30.019
Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018 9:14:14 PM

Wow. That's infuriating. What kind of leader doesn't take a position for the greater good? Remember when cars weren't required to have seatbelts? I remember when people threw litter out of their car windows, when the NYC skyline was hardly visible due to pollution. Should we wait for another governing body to take the lead? Is that what will help with our trash problem, with our coastline pollution? I'll paraphrase Tip O'Neill and say, all government is local. Have a little faith in your fellow Stamfordites. We are quite teachable, and will become accustomed to carrying a bag, a travel cup, a water bottle, cutlery... it's not too hard.

Sincerely,
L. DePreta

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 29, 2018, at 7:39 PM, Judith Liebeskind <judyliebeskind@optonline.net> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judith Liebeskind <judyliebeskind@optonline.net>
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance 30.019
Date: September 29, 2018 at 7:35:04 PM EDT
To: jmcmullen@stamfordCT.gov
Cc: "bdreps@stamfordct.gov" <bdreps@stamfordct.gov>

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From: J.R. McMullen
To: Laura DePreta
Cc: judylikeskind@optonline.net; McMullen, J.R.; Board of Representatives; joaniefk@optonline.net; roznisin21@aol.com
Subject: Re: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance 30.019
Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018 10:02:33 PM

Hi Laura,

I do remember when cars weren't required to have seatbelts. I also remember that seat belt laws were not passed until the majority of the population was already using them. If you want to teach Stamford residents then teach them. Get enough of them to follow you and then you will have my support. It isn't your place or mine to force them by fiat. That is what dictators do when their populations don't conform.

On Sat, Sep 29, 2018 at 9:14 PM Laura DePreta <laurer@optonline.net> wrote:

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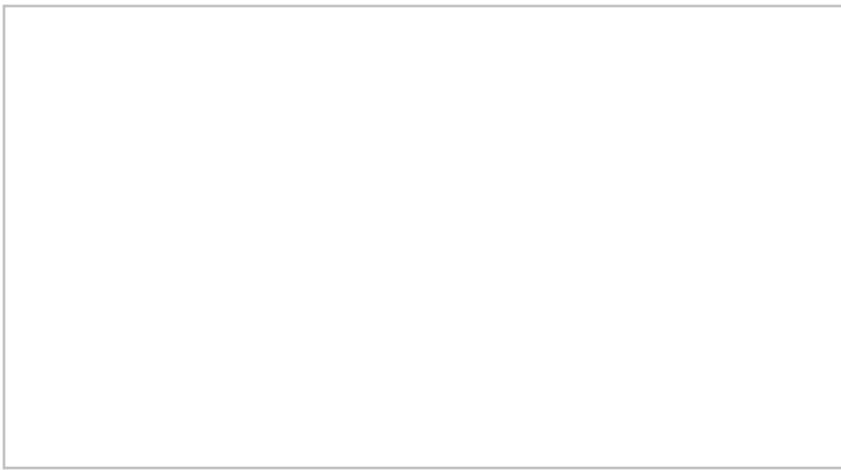
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Say we take this all the way, would you support a ban on plastic sandwich bags, produce bags, dry cleaning bags, or freezer bags? All have been discussed as next steps.

--

Trying to help other people at all times,

J.R. McMullen
(203) 979-8360
Representative District 18
165 Slice Drive
Stamford, CT 06907



From: [Judith Liebeskind](#)
To: [McMullen, John](#)
Cc: [laura DePreta](#); [McMullen, J.R.](#); [Board of Representatives](#); [Joan Krantz](#); [roslyn nesin](#)
Subject: Re: Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance 30.019
Date: Sunday, September 30, 2018 7:16:06 AM

Dear Representative McMullen:

Thank you for the effort you have put into investigating this issue. I would prefer that the Board of Reps for my city would take a leadership role rather than a follower role, especially when this issue is one that is rolling across this country and is inevitably on its way to Stamford.

Judy Liebeskind

On Sep 29, 2018, at 10:02 PM, J.R. McMullen
<jrmcmullen.stamford18@gmail.com> wrote:

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Trying to help other people at all times,

J.R. McMullen
(203) 979-8360
Representative District 18
165 Slice Drive
Stamford, CT 06907



From: [Judith Liebeskind](#)
To: [Matherne, Raven](#); [Bob Lion](#)
Cc: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: plastic bag ban with fee for brown bag
Date: Sunday, September 30, 2018 8:54:34 AM

Dear Representative Matherne and Lion;

I am an ardent supporter of the Ordinance 30.019, which bans the one time plastic bag given out at checkout. I am also an ardent supporter of a 10 cent fee for the brown bags at checkout. This ordinance would promote the consumer's habit of bringing their own bag, which would go a long way to bringing back the old values of reuse, reuse, reuse, and away from one time use and discard, discard, discard.

The repercussions on our infrastructure and quality of life would be considerable. The presence of discarded plastic bags would be greatly reduced in our parks, trees, and roads, rivers and into LI Sound. It would reduce the incidence of birds, fish and turtles choking on plastic bags that are mistaken for food. It would reduce the costs of clean ups and unclogging plugged drains. It would reduce the pollution from the manufacture and shipping of plastic and brown bags and the resources (oil/trees) used to manufacture and ship them.

Please vote YES for Ordinance 30.019. Thank you.

Judy Liebeskind
233 saddle Hill Rd
Stamford, CT 06903

From: eerichson@aol.com
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: ban on plastic bags
Date: Monday, October 01, 2018 2:56:03 PM

To the Stamford Board of Representatives:

Please support the ordinance for banning plastic bags, including the charge for paper bags - necessary to encourage customers to "bring their own bags". I understand that appropriate exceptions are made, and the future can include more fine tuning. This is a wonderful opportunity for Stamford to set an example in improving our environment and protecting our planet. I have been bringing my own bags for years, since a short period of living in Europe, and it is just a matter of getting into the habit. Reusable bags can be gotten inexpensively, especially if markets encourage such bags with their own logo, or other group activities to make them accessible and even fun.

Thank you for supporting this logical step to make us proud of Stamford.

Elaine Erichson