

Begin forwarded message:

**Resent-From:** <Linda.Morad@newbedford-ma.gov>  
**From:** Erin Graziani <egraziani@plasticsindustry.org>  
**Date:** February 22, 2019 at 6:17:52 PM EST  
**To:** "NewBedfordCityCouncil@newbedford-ma.gov" <NewBedfordCityCouncil@newbedford-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Legislation in New Bedford

Dear New Bedford City Council,

I am reaching out on behalf of the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA), which represents our country's plastic bag recyclers and manufacturers. I want to offer our organization as a resource to you as the New Bedford City Council considers a plastic bag ban, which has historically resulted in negative, unintended consequences.

As the City Council weighs its options, please feel free to review the attached factsheet and letter plus the quick facts below for more information. We are happy to be a part of the conversation and help inform New Bedford's approach based on our experience with other localities that have passed plastic bag regulations across the U.S.

- Plastic retail bags are 100% recyclable and have a 77.7% reuse rate. When looking at the full lifecycle of a reusable shopping bag, they take far more resources to produce, aren't recyclable at all, and often end up in a landfill anyways. Plastic retail bags are quick and efficient to produce, and they can be dropped off at nearby recycling locations (including PriceRite, Target, Lowe's, and Walmart).
- Per EPA, plastic retail bags make up one half of one percent of the nation's solid waste. Therefore, plastic bag bans have been shown to have little to no impact on overall litter. In some cases, plastic bag bans have actually resulted in increased landfill waste.
- Banning recyclable plastic bags creates more costs for those who can least afford it: families and seniors on fixed incomes. Small businesses are forced to comply with government regulations that mandate measuring, counting, reporting, and maintaining records related to enforcement of these unnecessary laws.

If we can answer any questions for you or provide you with any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

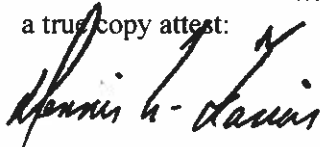
Best regards,  
Erin Graziani

**Erin Graziani**  
Communications Manager,  
American Progressive Bag  
Alliance  
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IN CITY COUNCIL, February 28, 2019

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.  
a true copy attest:

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk



City Clerk