

# NFIB

The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

February 10, 2018

The Honorable Andy Josephson  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 264 – Shopping Bag Fees & Recycling

Dear Representative Josephson:

On behalf of the NFIB/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our opposition to House Bill 264. NFIB, the Voice of Small Business, is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

House Bill 264 would involve a clerk in a store in deciding the amount of a purchase in a retail store for a customer. Should two or three bags be used? This will create conflict at the cash register and is bad public policy. The process required by this bill will slow down the check out process since the sale cannot be concluded until all the merchandise is placed in bags so the clerk can know the number of bags that will be used.

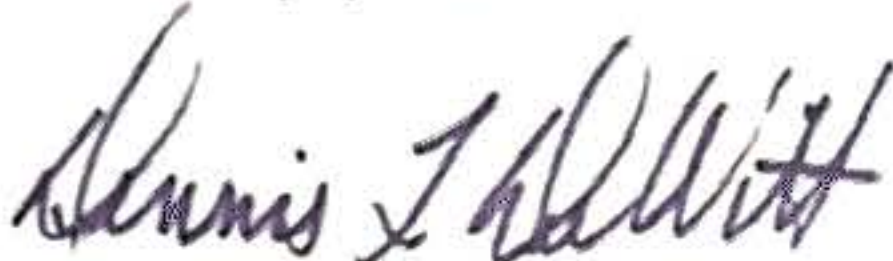
HB 364 requires a retailer to collect disposable bags, not limited to plastic bags, and recycle them even if there is no recycling available in the community. This will be a problem for many small businesses. The differential between urban and rural retail practices and costs will cause unequal treatment of like businesses.

There is an exemption for retailers that are not in a permanent building. This creates an unfair competitive situation with retailers who also pay property taxes not paid by movable retailers. There seems to be an intent not to cover tourist gift shops, but they are probably covered if they sell candy bars. Would hardware stores be covered because they stock paper towels?

The administrative burdens required by this bill will negatively impact small businesses. The confusing definitions and application will make interactions among the regulator, the owner, the employee and the customer very difficult at best.

We do not believe this bill should be enacted.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt  
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council  
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee