

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed SB 133 & others
Date: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:17:12 AM

From: Gloria Manni [mailto:glmanni@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 1:19 PM
To: Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed SB 133 & others

Dear Senator Gardner,

Continuing my conversation on proposed legislation, this is express my support to all the new legislation you are proposing and especially SB 133.

The issue of allowable under age marriages in Alaska came to my attention only a few months ago in reading a NY Times article.

Thank you very much for sponsoring the due update of the pertinent law.

Gloria Manni

From: Gloria Manni <glmanni@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 1:13 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner; Rep. Harriet Drummond
Subject: Proposed HB 264 - Tax on disposable plastic bags

Dear Representative Josephson,

Non degradable disposable plastic bags are indeed a problem; however I suggests that the proposed HB 264 is amended to reflect that ONLY BIODEGRADABLE DISPOSABLE BAGS ARE USED/STOCKED BY VENDORS OF ANY TYPE IN ALASKA.

As I see it this is a better cure to the problem than a penalty tax in that:

The biodegradable plastic bags may cost a few cents more and the cost will be carried by the buyer (not a tax penalty, but the cost of using a better quality product) ;

The biodegradable bags will no longer be a menace in solid waste landfills.

Biodegradable bags are widely used and available. A small note/example: MOA/Park & Rec has been using for quite some time biodegradable bags in their dog waste stations.

I appreciate your consideration to my proposed change.

Respectfully,

Gloria Manni
2208 Churchill Drive, Anchorage 99517
Tel 276-8498



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From: Carol Montgomery
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Cc: [Patti Fisher](#); [Mollie Boyer](#); [Liz Jackson](#)
Subject: Info on plastic bags and legislation
Date: Friday, January 12, 2018 11:58:00 AM
Attachments: [article Dec. PP.docx](#)
[article Jan FM Spectrum .docx](#)

Hi Lisa,

The Zero Waste Coalition Plastic Bag Committee is an informal group of volunteers who became mobilized after we found out that local caribou and reindeer were dying from ingesting them. Our approach was to raise awareness of the hazards which include: Local ruminant animals such as caribou, moose and reindeer are attracted to plastic bags, eat them and die when the bags block their rumen. Dr. Collins was our first contact. 746-6326. The winds in the Valley create a unique problem. There is no way to safely dispose of these bags out here, as they will blow out of the landfill, dumpsters, and when being loaded onto garbage trucks when it's windy.

These bags create an unsightly litter situation which hurts tourism, an important industry. Plastic litter eventually ends up in the ocean. Plastic never biodegrades, but breaks up into small particles called micro plastics. Plankton eat these particles. Salmon eat plankton, so it comes back to up on our dinner plates.

Here are some preliminary links I put together to support the above. We have been working on this issue for a long time so please feel free to contact me by email or phone if I can be of any help.

Andy wanted to see the video of Dr. Collins at the Matanuska Experiment Farm. Scroll down our Facebook page to videos and click on the two videos: <https://www.facebook.com/BagItMatSu/>. On that page you should also find all the local newspaper articles, TV coverage, etc.

Plastics in the ocean:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/GESAMP_microplastics_full_study.pdf

This relates to our salmon:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/278041328_Ingestion_of_Microplastics_by_Zooplankton_in_the_Northeast_Pacific_Ocean

Bag Legislation:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/plastic-bag-legislation.aspx>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/why-carryout-bag-fees-are-better-than-plastic-bag-bans_us_588187ace4b08f5134b61f79

<https://www.cawrecycles.org/list-of-national-bans>

Chicago went from ban to ban with

fee: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-chicago-plastic-bag-7-cent-fee>

tax-edit-0206-20170203-story.html

Hawaii went from banning single use plastic to banning all plastic with a fee for paper <http://khon2.com/2017/07/23/honolulu-mayor-to-sign-expanded-plastic-bag-ban-bill-for-oahu/>

A couple of local Mat-Su newspaper articles

Wasilla's Bag Ordinance:

<https://cityofwasilla.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/search?keywords=ordinance 17-24&location=108&preview=13644>

Good luck!

Carol Montgomery

Chair, Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition Plastic Bag Committee

907 355-4451



From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Courtney Munson](#)
Cc: [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Lisa Delaney](#); [Thomas Atkinson](#); [Megan Holland](#)
Subject: RE: House Bill 264 / single use plastic bags
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 7:36:54 AM

From: Courtney Munson [mailto:courtneyanne12@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 11:56 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 264 / single use plastic bags

Hello Rep. Josephson,

Just saw the news about this bill and wanted to say thank you for your action on this issue to lend my support. A group of us recently started a zero waste group on Facebook (Alaska Zero Waste if you want to search it) and it is taking off rapidly. With the ban in Wasilla it seems like there is momentum right now among a very diverse group of people across the political spectrum. Great timing for your bill! I really think addressing plastic consumption/waste is an issue that can bring people together and maybe provide some lessons on how we can get beyond the divisiveness that other environmental issues seemed to be mired in.

About a year ago I was working on building a network of individuals and groups in Anchorage interested in trying to address our seeming addiction to single use plastic (particularly the bags). I met with folks at the muni and with my Assembly member, friend, and neighbor Erik Croft, and also talked to people in other communities around the state who have tried to address this issue in different ways. I stopped working on it mostly because I didn't have the bandwidth personally because I went back to work full time last spring. With the FB group I feel like we are getting more organized. Many of the individuals in the group were involved in the Wasilla ban that just passed. I have some ideas for grassroots efforts that could complement the proposed legislation if your staff would like to reach out to me, or to get connected to the zero waste community we've started online.

I was also curious why you decided to go with the tax instead of the ban. I know there are pros and cons to each approach.

Thanks,
Courtney

P.S. Ccing Harriet since she is my neighbor and knows my passion about stuff like this and can vouch that I'm a real live person. :-)

--

Courtney Munson
courtneyanne12@gmail.com
(907) 231-7037

From: Patricia Dick
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Ban Plastic Bags
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 8:49:46 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Did you know a sperm whale can die from just one plastic bag? It has actually happened. Plastic is quickly filling up our ocean. Just recently, I read a study that said there is so much plastic in Atlantic fish that they are unhealthy to eat! How long is it going to be until they say the same about Pacific Salmon? We have to start somewhere. Plastic bags are something we can actually do something about! They have been banned in Europe for years. They remove their food from any plastic containers in Germany and leave the plastic at the store! You put a plastic bottle in a machine and get back money! At the very least we can take a reusable bag to the store and pack our groceries home that way. How much is a clean ocean worth? How much is a unpolluted fish worth? How much are healthy children worth?

Please ban plastic bags in Alaska, they need to go away forever, there is no place in our ocean for them or our landfill!

Patricia Dick

From: Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Support for HB 264
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 4:13:26 PM

I am one of the leaders of the Kachemak Advocates of Recycling (KARe) group in Homer whose mission is to reduce waste in the Lower Kenai Peninsula Borough. Our group supports decreasing the use of single use plastics, like the disposable bags. So we support this bill because a user fee may decrease the amount of bags that are used in Alaska.

Personally I'd like to see a complete ban on such bags, or a high user fee. But this is a good start.

Please support this bill so that it can go to the full House for further action.

Thank you.

Vivian Finlay



--

455 Elderberry Drive,
Homer, AK. 99603 USA
(907) 435-3903

Box 521187

Big Lake, AK 99652

March 7, 2017

Dear Legislators:

Thank you for your efforts to beautify our state and protect wildlife and our waterways with a plastic bag ban. Any kind of reduction of single use items will help eliminate litter and pollution in Alaska.

Please pass this legislation.

Sammy Taylor

From: Hatcher Pass B&B [mailto:cabins@hatcherpassbb.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 1:54 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Plastic Bag Bill

Dear Mr. Josephson,

Thank you for House Bill N. 264. Do you have someone in the Senate that will be putting forth a similar bill in the Senate? Is that how action could be moved forward with this?

I am a member of the Plastic Bag Committee of the Mat Su Zero Waste Coalition in the Mat Su Valley, and we are quite happy with the Ordinance that the city of Wasilla passed last night to ban the distribution of flimsy single use plastic bags. We would have liked legislation that included a fee on plastic bags, but we are thankful for the move forward on this that the city of Wasilla took.

We will be working with Palmer in the hopes that their city and also the small city of Houston in the Mat Su Borough will also ban single use plastic bags.

When we were presenting at the Wasilla Chamber about the legislation, I told Shelley Hughes that I thought a statewide ban on plastic bags only makes sense in light of our fisheries, tourism and scenic beauty of the State. She just kinda rolled her eyes and indicated there was no way it would pass in Juneau.

We have good momentum and conversations going on in the Valley, and we have the best recycling center in the State as well. I believe we could help in the cause.

I look forward to hearing more, and working to make this Bill law.

Liz Jackson, Owner

Hatcher Pass Bed and Breakfast

"Authentic Alaskan Log Cabins"

[Hatcher Pass Bed and Breakfast](#)

Phone: 907-745-6788

E-mail: cabins@hatcherpassbb.com

[Facebook Page - Hatcher Pass B&B](#)



From: Carol Hoover
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Cc: [Dune Lankard](#)
Subject: Re: cloth bag photos
Date: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:38:24 AM

Hi Lisa,

I am on it!

Our compliments to Representative Andy Josephson for introducing this visionary bill.

Re the photos we sent of the canvas bags - let me know if they get reproduced anywhere - thanks. Have you called the Anchorage Daily News or sent them a press release?

(So glad to get feedback re how I did on the call :-)

Best regards,
Carol



Executive Director
Eyak Preservation Council
PO 460 Cordova, AK 99574
(907)424-5890
(415)250-9472 cell
www.eyakpreservationcouncil.org
Where Wild Salmon Rule

From: Kendra Zamzow
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: HB 264
Date: Thursday, March 08, 2018 5:41:22 PM

It was here in Palmer, at the Matanuska Experiment Farm, that researchers determined the impact of plastic bags on moose and caribou -- who were eating them. I know from personal experience -- a dog of mine died after a friend came over to take care of him and left plastic bags around.

Plastics are wonderful. They are essential in medical care. But we do not need them as a container for our groceries.

I support this bill. And I am proud of Bethel, Cordova, and Wasilla for taking a stand on this issue already!

Thank you,

Kendra Zamzow, PhD
Chickaloon, AK
907.354.3886

"We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom." EO Wilson

From: Helen Thomas
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: PLEASE BAN plastic bags
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 9:50:07 AM

I think a 20 cents or even higher fee for plastic bags is a good idea. I could go with no fee but please ban plastic bags. Change is difficult but it is way beyond time for this to happen. While the making of cotton bags also leave a carbon footprint, they do decompose. Plastic is just plain bad for the environment.

Sent from my iPad
Helen Thomas

From: Greg Streveler
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Plastic bags
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 9:37:32 PM

I want to register my support for legislation to restrict the distribution of single-use plastic bags. Thank you, Greg Streveler, Gustavus AK

Sent from my iPad

From: Pete Praetorius
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Rep. George Rauscher](#)
Subject: In support of HB 264: Ban the Bags
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 6:44:38 PM

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I'm writing in support of HB 264. I agree with the Sponsor's Statement that "Single-use plastic bags are harmful to our environment, our wildlife, and our economy." I also agree with changes to the bill in that it now bans the thin bags, sets the standard for reusable bags at 4 mil, and charges a 10 cent pass through fee on reusable plastic and paper bags.

As I drove the Glenn Highway outside of Palmer this morning, the wind was blowing lightly and I saw two bag blow across the road directly in front of me, and I saw several bags in trees and bushes. It is time that we rid Alaska of these thin nuisance bags.

Thank you for considering this measure.

Sincerely,

Pete Praetorius

Dr. Pete Praetorius
pwpraetorius@alaska.edu
Associate Professor of Communication
University of Alaska Anchorage | Matanuska-Susitna College
PO Box 2889
Palmer Alaska, 99645
907-745-9728 office
907-745-4747 home

From: Cheryl Cook
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: H.B. 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 8:22:15 AM

I'm writing to urge support for this bill banning plastic bags and promoting reusable ones. It's time for the state do more to help its citizens free themselves from this toxic addiction and free our beautiful state from the pollution it creates.

Thank You.

Cheryl Cook
PO Box 184
Gustavus AK 99826
9075008091

I am writing in favor of House Bill HB264. My name is Annemieke Powers and I live outside Palmer. I am a small business owner and a civil engineer who has worked for the last 25 years or so in cleaning up contaminated sites.

My main concern with plastic bags is the long term economic and environmental impact of plastic pollution. Even when people properly dispose of these bags, too many bags blow out of the landfill, trash bins and other containers. They are very light and easily transported by water and wind, which we have an abundance of in Alaska, especially at this time of the year.

My question is: who is going to clean up the pollution and who is going to pay for it? In my professional experience, it is cheaper to prevent pollution at the source than to pay for cleanup after the fact. A bag ban or fee does exactly that. It reduces pollution at the source. The World Economic Forum, in 2016, predicted that at current rates of pollution, the world's oceans would contain more plastic by weight than fish by the year 2050. This impairment to the oceans and fisheries could have a future economic impact to Alaskans. Protecting the salmon industry was one of the main reasons that Cordova successfully imposed a bag ban in 2016. And we have not even begun to assess the impact to the food chains of land animals. At the Mat-Su Experimental Farm plastic bags have already been found in the stomachs of caribou and moose. Alaskans rely heavily on the beauty and health of our land and waters for tourism, hunting and fishing and I think we should be proactive in protecting these resources.

Since plastic pollution is widespread and not the sole responsibility of any one person, corporation or nation, most clean-up costs will likely be borne by government entities which means it will eventually be paid for by the taxpayers. That means by you and by me. If we don't act, our kids and grandkids will bear an even larger cost as the pollution problem will not go away by itself, but will just grow. Banning or imposing a fee on these bags certainly won't eliminate all plastic pollution, but it is a very simple means of eliminating one, widely used pollution source. And it is something that can be controlled by the individual. I cannot control how companies package their goods, but I can control how I carry them from the store to my car.

Lastly in regards to the question of government overreach, to me, this bill does not affect what I buy, how much I buy, or where I shop. It does not affect what I do with the items I buy. It only affects how I carry the items out of the store. There are many ways to carry out your purchases and I think Alaskans are resourceful enough to come up with their own ideas. My household stopped using plastic grocery bags years ago and honestly, it has not been a hardship. Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: Zachary Brown
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: Please ban plastic bags! Pass HB 264.
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 8:17:56 AM

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support of HB 264 to ban single-use plastic bags from large Alaska stores.

I was trained as a PhD oceanographer at Stanford University, and I can tell you that plastic is a disaster for our oceans -- if current trends continue, there will be more plastic than fish in the global ocean by 2050.

More importantly, I am a born-and-raised Alaskan, and I am a subsistence fisherman. My family depends on clean, plastic-free water.

Please pass HB 264 into law, and keep plastic pollution out of our oceans!

Thank you for your consideration,
Zach

Zachary Brown
PhD, Stanford University
Founding Director, Inian Islands Institute
<http://inianislandsinstitute.org/>

From: Katherine Hocker
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Plastic bag ban
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 8:31:19 AM

Dear Committee Members-

I am writing to strongly support H.B 264, the bill to ban single-use plastic bags less than 4 mm thick. I'm thrilled that this legislation is being proposed. Discarded plastic bags are not only an unsightly nuisance, but evidence is clear that they are a serious threat to the environment—especially ocean ecosystems. I have visited other places (such as the island of Hawaii) in which such a ban exists, and it appears not to unduly inconvenience businesses or consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Katherine Hocker
9 Sand Lance LN
Gustavus, AK 99826

From: michelle putz
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Testimony on HB 264 - the plastic bag ban
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 9:12:12 PM

As the lead for the Sitka volunteer group, Bags for Change, we want to testify in support of HB 264. We believe that a disposable shopping bag ban benefits and protects Alaskans and our environment. We are in full support of this bill.

There is growing concern about the effects of plastic and plastic bags on human health and on the environment upon which we depend. And there is a local and global concern about the number of disposable bags being used and thrown away.

Plastic bags are harmful to human health and are of particular concern in Sitka, where they can easily end up in the ocean. Plastic fragments in the ocean such as those from plastic bags absorb pollutants like PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl) and PAHs (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), which are known to be hormone-disrupting chemicals. When marine organisms consume plastics in our oceans, these chemicals can make their way through the ocean's food web and then into humans who eat fish and other marine organisms (<http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2013/12/12/250438904/how-plastic-in-the-ocean-is-contaminating-your-seafood>). Nearly all commercially available plastics tested contained compounds that release estrogen-mimicking chemicals that have adverse human health effects at low doses especially in small children and fetuses, effects include reducing sperm count, cancers, infertility, feminizing boys, and masculinizing girls (Yang et al. 2011 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3222987/>).

Plastic bags are also affecting our environment. Plastic bags are made from petroleum, which contributes to climate change. The U.S alone uses 12 million barrels of oil every year to meet the demand for plastic bags. Plastic bags are particularly harmful to marine life. Plastic bags and their associated plastic pieces are often mistaken for food by animals, birds, and marine life like fish and sea turtles. The consumed plastic then congests the digestive tracts of these animals, and can lead to health issues such as infections and even death by suffocation.

The Bags for Change group is working to educate the community of Sitka about these health and other concerns and has been gathering data and input from the community. While some individuals are concerned about a ban or a fee, we are hearing overwhelming support for action to reduce the number of disposable plastic bags given away in Sitka.

We recently did a random survey of 252 Sitka adults walking into our 3 local grocery stores. We asked, in Sitka, what should be done with disposable plastic bags. The question and results are as follows:

In Sitka, should single-use disposable plastic bags be:

- A) Banned = 48 (19%)**
- B) Provided, but for a fee that would be used to support Sitka Schools and to reduce residents electric costs, = 129 (51.2%)**
- C) Handed out for free, = 42 (16.7%)**
- D) No opinion = 33 (13.1%)**

A similar poll on a very conservative facebook page showed results of **195 = No Action; 225 = Take action on bags** (132 = Ban; 93 = Fee).

Bags for Change knows that citizens and visitors will have to adjust and learn a more sustainable behavior. But the change is not arduous or costly to make. And in the end, it benefits us all and provides people with a new model for the future adding new sustainable and resilient behaviors and habits.

Thank you for taking our testimony. We encourage you to move House Bill 264 forward and vote for it when it comes up. If you have any questions for us, please feel free to call me at 907-747-2708.

Sincerely,
Michelle Putz
Bags for Change
131 Shelikof Way, Sitka, AK 99835

From: vivandclyde@gmail.com
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Support for HB 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 10:06:08 AM

Please support HB 264 and send it to the full House for further action.

I am an advocate for recycling and reducing the use of plastics, including bags. I am also one of the leaders of the Kachemak Advocates of Recycling (KARe) group in Homer whose mission is to reduce waste in the Lower Kenai Peninsula Borough. Our group supports decreasing the use of single use plastics, like the disposable bags. So we support this bill because a user fee may decrease the amount of bags that are used in Alaska.

I would like to see a large user fee for plastic bags, more than the proposed 20 cents per bag, or a complete ban on the use of such bags.

Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the USA. Wouldn't it be wonderful to lead the nation in protecting our coast, oceans, waterways, by banning the use of single use plastic bags to haul groceries? I think so.

Thank you.
Clyde Boyer



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[455 Elderberry Drive,](#)
[Homer, AK. 99603 USA](#)
[\(907\) 435-3903](#)

From: Sarah Glaser
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Support for plastic bag ban
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 10:47:49 AM

Dear Rep. Sam Kito and committee aid Caitlyn Ellis,

I am writing in support of the ban on single-use plastic bags (HB 264).

We must be especially mindful of the harmful effects of plastic on marine life (and human life) in Alaska, where we depend on the ocean for much of our locally-sourced food and many of our livelihoods.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Glaser

2700 West 31st Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517

--



SARAH K. GLASER

t. 207 449 2266

w. sarahkglaser.be



From: Annemieke Powers
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 10:25:35 AM

I am emailing in support of the bill banning plastic bags in Alaska. I am seventeen years old and I do not want to have to pay for the cost of cleaning up plastic bag pollution when I am older. Plastic bags are not necessary for our community. Animals and fish eat them which is harmful for an area where many families rely on hunting and fishing. Also preventing pollution is generally more cost effective than cleaning up a widespread pollution problem. Furthermore, bringing your own bag will not be any more expensive or inconvenient than having plastic bags.

Thanks,

Shannon Powers

From: Beth Davidow
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Supporting a Ban on Plastic Bags
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 11:08:11 AM

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to urge you to support a ban on plastic bags in Alaska.

As a diver, and world traveler, it is shocking to see how many single use plastic bags end up not only in our global oceans, but also on beaches in far flung places. I've been diving on beautiful coral reefs and witnessed plastic bags, waving in gentle currents, in the depths. I've come up from a dive in remote wilderness areas, pushing aside plastic bags streaming in on tides and currents.

Plastic bags in Alaska may end up in areas you can't imagine! And worse, they end up in the stomachs of marine life. Sea turtles that feed on jellyfish mistake plastic bags for food; consuming bags kills them. The great whales also ingest hundreds of bags, which clog up their insides and kill them. We've seen plastic bags tied like nooses around the necks of marine birds.

There is absolutely no reason, in this day and age, for humans to be using plastic bags.

Plastic bags also contain many toxins and chemicals including BPA which has direct links to cancer. They are made from oil – each bag uses about the same amount that would drive a car 115 metres.

Alaska is a magnet that draws people from around the world with its iconic beauty both on land and at sea. When I travel Alaska and see plastic bags alongside roads, in streams, wafting on breezes over the tundra, and floating through the Inside Passage, I am mortified that this great state is so terribly littered. These sights do not represent the wilderness beauty that brings millions of tourism dollars to Alaska!

Please keep Alaska beautiful. Please keep Alaskan wildlife, and people, safe from the toxic and wasteful plastic bags. Please make Alaska one of the leaders in our Nation by banning plastic bags.

Respectfully,
Beth Davidow

From: Patricia Anderson
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: Yttap4@gmail.com
Subject: H.B. 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 10:21:08 AM

Yes, yes, yes! Stop the pollution of plastic! I have a friend who says she uses them for small garbage cans. I point out that they usually have holes in them before she gets the groceries out so better be dry garbage going in it.

San Francisco and Austin have banned plastic bags along with smart Alaskan towns.

Just do it!

Patricia Anderson
2306 E 74th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 349-1440

Sent from my iPad

From: Jennifer Johnson
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Support HB 264 bag ban & fee
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 3:08:42 PM

To the House Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

I support a plastic bag ban & fee.

Plastic bags are a blight on our environment and a health concern for our wildlife.

For the aesthetics of our beautiful land, the well being of our flora and fauna, as well as the health of our children and their future, I support reducing or getting rid of the plastic entirely.

Including a fee is the only way to encourage those that do not already bring their own bag to do so or at least to reduce their dependency on plastic bags.

Please pass a carryout plastic bag ban and include a fee for any paper or additional weight plastic bags not banned.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Johnson
Jjnri@msn.com

From: Kathryn Carssow
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: plastic bag ban
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 2:34:05 PM

Dear Representative Kito and Committee members,

I respectfully request that you take action to protect our fragile coastal ecosystem on which all Alaskans are deeply dependent by passing legislation to ban single-use plastic bags.

Kathryn Carssow

Homer, Alaska

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Alyson Pytte
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: H.B. 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 11:28:00 AM

Dear members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,
I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 264, which would ban single use plastic bags in large stores.

Like most Americans, I am pretty addicted to convenience. But I can say from experience that switching to reusable bags is a trivial and transitory inconvenience when weighed against the many benefits of reducing plastic bag use. I would appreciate the opportunity to pay a small fee to buy a paper bag when I forget a reusable bag, and this bill would encourage stores to provide that option.

Plastic bags litter the highways and hang from trees and are an eyesore in our beautiful state, which depends on tourism. Plastic bags also kill birds and other wildlife and leach chemicals into our environment. When you stop to think about it, manufacturing a plastic bag to use once and throw away is a crazy waste of resources and an insult to American ingenuity. I believe there is broad support for this bill (look at Wasilla!) because we face so many intractable problems, but here is a small and common sense thing we can do as a community to make Alaska cleaner and safer.

Thank you in advance for your support for this important bill.

Alyson Pytte
6120 Romania Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: Irene Bortnick
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: H.B. 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 11:28:07 AM

Thank you Representatives Kito and Josephson for sponsoring and chairing the bill to ban plastic bags in Alaska. While we cannot role back the clock, now that we know the impact of plastic, we must do all we can to protect our environment and wildlife. Without a ban, it is hard to get individuals to change their ways.

Sincerely,
Irene Bortnick

From: alex glass
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 4:24:28 PM

Dear Representative Kito Ms. Caitlyn Ellis,

I am writing in support of HB 264. As a resident of Anchorage, I often see plastic bags flying around town, littering our streets, and sometimes even clogging our sewer drains. I think the passing of HB 264 (banning of plastic bags less than 4 mils statewide) is a VERY critical step forward in the process of eliminating plastics from our environment. Alaska is known as “the last frontier”. Frontier (noun) meaning *the extreme limit of settled land beyond which lies wilderness*. If we do not take the steps necessary to keep our land free of pollutants, it will no longer be considered “wild” or sacred as we Alaskans know it to be. There are already many parts of the oceans that plastic has reached that humans haven’t.

It is a dangerous choice to maintain the same environmentally devastating habits that we have been for so long. I thank you for introducing this bill into Alaska legislature and I will do my best to help spread the importance of it so that we may see it passed.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Glass
1910 E 72nd Ave Apt 2
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: janet myers
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 12:19:58 PM

I am an Anchorite and I strongly support the banning of plastic bags or minimally a tax on them. They are a hazard, bad for wildlife, bad for the planet and the only people profiting from them are the guys that own the companies that make them.

Jan Myers
9631 Elmore
Anchorage Ak 99507!!!!

From: Janet Colon
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: H.B. 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 4:37:07 PM

Please ban single use plastic bags. Let's be an example for the rest of the world

Janet Colon

From: Katherine Schake
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Support for Bill 264 - proposed Alaska Single Use Plastic Bag Ban
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 1:17:17 PM

Hello,

I am writing as an Alaskan resident in support of Bill 264 because I think it is important to ban plastic bag use in Alaska. It is in the best interest of everyone to do so because this plastic is incredibly harmful to the marine and terrestrial ecosystem on which we all depend - especially our wild-salmon fisheries.

Thank you for your time,
Katherine Schake
907-205-2035
Anchorage, AK

From: [LIO Sitka](#)
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Cc: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Public Testimony on HB264 for House Labor and Commerce Committee
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 12:59:49 PM

Dear Chairman Kito and the entire House Labor and Commerce Committee ,
Please accept this written public testimony from Sitka constituent Libby Stortz,
libbystortz@gci.net via the Sitka LIO.

HB 264 Ban Single Use Plastic Bags: Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee members: I urge you to support and pass this bill. Single use plastic bags are bad for fish, wildlife and our health. The imposition of a fee, which encourages stores to purchase thicker plastic bags or paper for customers is laudable and an important step forward.

My personal preference would be for the 10 cent fee to be shared between stores, who must buy some kind of bag for consumers anyway, and with the Alaska State departments whose work is focused on environment, wildlife and the health of Alaskans. I'd like to see stores urged by the State to offer reuseable cloth bags at the store's price to their customers. Stores would be able to keep their profit or pay themselves back for offering cloth bags.

Thank you for taking my comments,
Libby Stortz,
Sitka

Thank you!
Ken Fate,
Sitka Legislative Information Officer
907-747-6276

From: Princess Lucaj
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Bill 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 3:23:40 PM

Dear AK Legislature Representatives,

I am writing in support of Bill 264 to ban single use plastic bags. I think this is a long overdue measure to help us keep Alaska beautiful and reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our landfills.

I hope you expedite this bill through so we can all celebrate come Spring break up when we do our clean up days! ;-)

Mahsi' choo!
Princess Lucaj
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: Cat Coward
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: H.B. 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 3:45:31 PM

Dear Representatives,

This is an email in support of HB 264. Single use plastic bags are detrimental to our environment, and they are wasteful. Many communities have successfully reduced the use of plastic bags without placing a strain community members.

Please use this email as my public testimony in the support of HB 264.

Thank you,
Catherine Coward
6221 Farpoint Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lee Goodman
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 264
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 1:29:32 PM

Dear members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,
I am writing to express my support for House Bill 264, which would ban single use plastic bags in large stores.

Without question these bags are extremely convenient, but the convenience is far outweighed by the damage these bags pose to our wildlife and environment, to say nothing of the visual blight they so often create on the beauty of Alaska.

Like so many Alaskans I would be happy to pay a small fee to buy a paper bag when I forget a reusable bag, and this bill would encourage stores to provide that option.

Plastic

bags litter the highways and hang from trees and are an eyesore in our beautiful state, which depends on tourism. Plastic bags also kill birds and other wildlife and leach chemicals into our environment. When you stop to think about it, manufacturing a plastic bag to use once and throw away is a crazy waste of resources and an insult to American ingenuity. I believe there is broad support for this bill (look at Wasilla!) because we face so many intractable problems, but here is a small and common sense thing we can do as a community to make Alaska cleaner and safer.

Thank you in advance for your support for this important bill.

From: Ceal
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: YES on HB 264!
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 4:30:17 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

The Alaska Climate Action Network wholeheartedly supports HB 264. We have a very long way to go to effectively manage the unregulated dumping of plastics in our oceans and this bill is a much needed start.

Plastics are a highly disturbing and intractable problem that harms marine mammal and bird populations, our ocean ecosystems, fisheries and human health in irreparable ways that scientists are only beginning to understand.

Please see this 2017 Annual Review of Marine Science report on Plastics in the Marine Environment for an overview of our current understanding:

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-marine-010816-060409>

As the nations greatest coastal state, Alaska should rightfully take leadership on this critical oceans issue. We hope HB 264 is just the beginning of a comprehensive and innovative state-led campaign to protect our oceans, wildlife and public health.

Sincerely,

Ceal Smith

Co-founder

On behalf of our 1200+ followers and grassroots partners across Alaska.

~~~~~

Ceal Smith, MSci

[Alaska Climate Action Network](#)

[Join AK CAN! on Facebook](#)

Eagle River, AK

907.952.7472

**From:** Krista Christensen  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB 264  
**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2018 11:51:31 PM

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I support HB 264, the plastic bag ban. Please move this bill forward with expediency.  
Thank you,

Krista Christensen  
Writer & Teacher  
Fairbanks, Alaska, USA



**From:** John DeLapp  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Please support HB 264  
**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2018 7:40:44 PM

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I am writing in support of HB 264. Please ban or tax the use of non reusable plastic bags.

John A DeLapp  
2241 Foxhall Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99504

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Jennifer Davis  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska Single Use Plastic Bag Ban  
**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2018 9:47:55 PM

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I strongly support the HB 264 proposed Alaska Single Use Plastic Bag Ban.

Jennifer Davis

**From:** Dawn Groth  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB 264  
**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2018 6:26:51 PM

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As an Anchorage resident, I was amazed that Wasilla banned plastic bags before Anchorage. Right? We all hear how Anchorage is the smarty pants and Wasilla is the bedroom community, then BANG, Wasilla passes legislation to ban plastic bags. WAY TO GO WASILLA! And Anchorage is the home of all these environmental groups!!! What the heck Anchorage?!

I was impressed with Wasilla, now I encourage you to respect the will of our Wasilla Alaskans and support HB 264 to ban the bags! Don't let big outside industry tell you what to do. Your people have spoken.

Congrats for standing up for yourselves, Wasilla! Congrats for taking the lead on plastic bags.

Dawn Groth  
Anchorage AK 99504

**From:** Diana Z  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags!!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 12:09:21 PM

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To whom it may concern:

Have you seen how much plastic is in the ocean? Do you care about future generations of your children and animals? Are we that selfish that we can't adapt to doing something for the bigger picture just because we (meaning 'you') are lazy? I have been using my own reusable bags for over 20 years. Disposable plastic bags are not necessary. As a resident of Palmer, I will continue to fight close-minded people. Keeping reusable bags in our cars and at our front doors is a learned behavior that anyone can adapt to—not hard at all, so no need to worry about BUYING disposable plastic bags. People shop @Costco without bitching just fine.

If you can't see the bigger picture, we will go to the stores individually and get their support. Show some concern for the environment rather than for personal profit please. The world is in a crisis and we need to step up.

Sincerely,

Diana Zitmanis

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Gina Lindsey  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB 264 support  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 3:00:01 PM

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I am a registered voter in Alaska and I support this bill to remove single use plastic bags.

Thank you,  
Gina M Lindsey  
Anchorage

3/10/2018

Homer is a beautiful small town where we do not see the ugly reality of plastics. The oceans are not depositing tons of plastic on our beaches. We have many people who sweep for garbage daily. We do not see the reality, but all the plastic that is blowing around on our streets does make it to our (the world's) oceans.

Daily, I see plastic that has been stopped ~~by~~ in its flight by a tree or a ditch. This is visible and ugly. But, what is worse is all the plastic that freely blows into our ocean. Out of sight. Hiding where we can not see its deadly damage.

Homer prides itself on being a caring aware community, yet when it comes to going out of our way to protect our oceans, our environment, we have only just begun to be aware.

We refused to ban plastics in the past because - We didn't get to vote our voice on it. Not because it was a bad idea.

I say, It is time to vote. All of us. Vote for the awareness that our world's oceans are in danger. As a result a

chain of reaction that will lead  
directly to us.

Robert Copeland McKinney

Homer, Alaska

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

Name:

Deborah Boege Tobin, Ph.D.

Representing:

Bill No./Subject

HB264

Committee:

HLAC

Date of Hearing:

3/9/18

To whom it may concern,

I fully support House Bill 264 to impose a fee of \$0.20 per bag for use of single-use plastic bags. I have personally dissected/necropsied many marine mammals and a few birds wherein I & my Biology students at the Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College - University of Alaska Anchorage have found numerous pieces of plastic debris, including plastic bags inside and outside/entangled around these organisms. Plastics will remain on our planet for 400+ years, and worse yet they break down into small (microplastic) pieces that are eaten by many filter-feeding organisms that bivalves and fish consume, which many of us humans later consume. This accumulation and bio-magnification in our bodies disrupts our endocrine systems, mimicing several types of hormones, especially sex hormones. Our beautiful Alaskan coastlines and <sup>inland</sup> environments are littered w/ plastics which is detrimental to our tourism, our physical & mental health, and that of our marine, aquatic (freshwater) & terrestrial organisms. Please enact this bill and fee on single-use plastic bags and what will hopefully be a first step in banning them altogether like the state of Hawaii and many other communities world-wide. Sincerely,  
Deborah Tobin



March 9, 2018

I am in full support of a total ban for all single use plastics in Alaska. Alaska is my home. I have spent countless hours with my family, friends and Girl Scouts cleaning up my hometown, other Alaskan communities, beaches, and parks both urban and rural. A majority of the trash collected is single use plastic.

Just the other day I saw plastic bags blowing across the mud flats of the Homer Spit; one of the world's major shorebird stopovers each spring as the birds their way North to reproduce. The trash negatively affects both the birds and the annual Shorebird Festival that provides the Homer community with an economic boost.

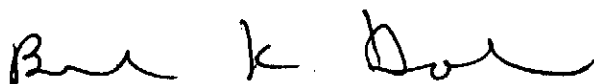
Bioaccumulation is a major effect of plastic in the ocean. Persistent Organic Pollutants such as trace insecticides, pesticides, toxic pollution and industrial chemicals are absorbed by a microbe biofilm that the plastic surface provides; as plastic is ingested by animals the Persistent Organic Pollutants are absorbed into the animals fatty tissue increasing in toxicity as they progress up the food chain. Ultimately, these toxic materials impact the health of Alaskans, as we depend on the food our state provides. In addition, to Bioaccumulation marine animals can starve to death when they ingest plastic instead of nutrient rich plankton. Entanglement can hinder an animal's ability to evade predators, acquire food, or reach the surface for oxygen. Entanglement can also cause injury, and infection that often results in death.

While working as a teacher in the Bering Strait another teacher and myself worked with our students to create an underwater camera, which we submerged in a crab hole in order to observe the marine life. Stills were taken under water, and the photos were posted. It took the fourth graders to point out that what the adults thought were jelly fish were, in fact, the single use plastic bags from honey buckets that had been dumped into the ocean. This marine debris was found in the same hole that King crab had been gathered.

In 2011, Plastic outweighed plankton 40:1 in the Pacific Gyre. February 20, 2018; LATimes quote "If we don't cut back now, there will eventually be more plastic than fish in the ocean." Alaskans depend on fish. If you go to the Pratt Museum, you will see a display featuring the stomach content of marine birds that had died due to the overwhelming blockage of plastic in their systems. This display is not only a poignant representation of the plastic issue that plagues Alaska, it is also a very old display. A young woman I know mentioned the display when I asked her about her thoughts on the plastic ban. The display was featured in the local museum twenty years ago, when that young woman was just a toddler. This proves that the issue of plastics in our local community, and our marine community, is long overdue to be addressed. Alaska needs to reduce plastic pollution.

It is time as a State we take action to minimize our plastic waste. Plastic pollution is detrimental to the health of Alaska. We need a total ban of single use plastic for Alaska.

Brenda Dolma Homer, Alaska 99603

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Dolma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" and last name "Dolma" clearly distinguishable.

**From:** Joanie Kirk  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB264  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 3:47:26 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB264.  
My name is Joanie Kirk, I am a business owner in Palmer, Alaska and a naturopathic doctor.  
I support HB 264 (amended as a ban).

Thank you

Joanie Kirk ND  
907-707-3604  
[www.joaniekirknd.com](http://www.joaniekirknd.com)

**From:** Alexandra Lemos  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 264  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 2:11:23 PM

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Good day,

My name is Alexandra Lemos and am writing in support of HB 264. There are many reasons to support the ban of plastic bags which of course include the environmental impact of not only plastic bag production, but the inevitable consequence of its post grocery holding life. Additionally, there is the community support aspect which cannot be denied. I came from a place that also had this ban and a 10 cent paper bag fee and while it was a little bit of an adjustment I was completely comfortable paying for paper and eventually bought and started bringing my own. It's nice to see other shoppers also with their reusable bags and it creates a sense of community that would have otherwise not existed. There is also the progressive statement that this holds and if you pay attention to areas that are doing well financially there is a correlation between attractiveness to business and progressive politics. I believe this ban would be a good step towards solidifying Alaska's economy by attracting talent and business.

In summary, I don't think it's anyone's right to have free bags and plastic is a terrible threat to the natural habitat of beautiful and majestic Alaska. Thank you kindly for reading.

Take care,

Alexandra Lemos - Anchorage

**From:** Ceri Lloyd  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Support of the plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 2:02:37 PM

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I am writing to show my support of HB 264, the plastic bag ban. I was very proud of Wasilla when they voted in their ban, and I would love to see the entire state do the same thing. Our state of Alaska is beautiful and we must work together as Alaskans to keep it that way. Our proximity to the ocean is one of the many reasons I feel this ban needs to take place in our state. The production and use of single use plastic bags to carry home our groceries is an unnecessary convenience. Residents of other cities both in the US and outside of our country have shown that they are able to get by without them, and have accustomed themselves easily to the change, even if they were not primarily in support of it.

I have been working with other locals to establish free reusable bags to be made available in stores in Wasilla, and we are eager to do the same throughout the entire state. There are initiatives already in place and working in Homer to meet the bag need, and it has proven successful. I support this ban and hope that others will do the same!

Thank you,  
Ceri Lloyd



2050 VENIA MINOR ROAD  
PO Box 86  
ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA 99660



March 12, 2018

Dear Rep. Sam Kito and Caitlyn Ellis,

My name is Dr. Lauren Divine and I am the Co-Director of the Ecosystem Conservation Office for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, the federally designated name used to identify our community of Unangan, also known as Aleuts, residing on St. Paul Island in the Pribilof Islands of Alaska. I also serve as a permanent participant representative to the Marine Litter Expert Group within the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment for the Arctic Council. I am writing to you to express my support of HB264, the bill that proposes a plastic bag ban across Alaska, which will not only play a large role in reducing solid waste production across the state but will also protect freshwater and marine resources by reducing the amount of debris that could potentially pollute these resources. Globally, approximately 8 million metric tons of plastic debris enters the ocean annually. As plastic does not biodegrade, this means that millions of tons of plastic debris are accumulating in our oceans, being carried long distances by strong currents. One projection suggests that there will be more pieces of plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. The following information about the harmful impacts of plastic debris and pollution comes from the Plastic Pollution Coalition (<http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/>):

- **Plastic never goes away:** Plastic is a durable material made to last forever, yet 33 percent of it is used once and then discarded. Plastic cannot biodegrade; it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces.
- **Plastic piles up in the environment:** Americans alone discard more than 30 million tons of plastic a year; only 8 percent of it gets recycled. The rest ends up in landfills or becomes 'litter', and a small portion is incinerated.
- **Plastic spoils our groundwater:** There are tens of thousands of landfills across the globe. Buried beneath each one of them, plastic leachate full of toxic chemicals is seeping into groundwater and flowing downstream into lakes and rivers.
- **Plastic poisons our food chain:** Even plankton, the tiniest creatures in our oceans, are eating microplastics and absorbing their toxins. The substance displaces nutritive algae that creatures up the food chain require.
- **Plastic attracts other pollutants:** Manufacturers' additives in plastics, like flame retardants, BPAs and PVCs, can leach their own toxins. These oily poisons repel water and stick to petroleum-based objects like plastic debris.
- **Plastic affects human health:** Chemicals leached by plastics are in the blood and tissue of nearly all of us. Exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments.
- **Plastic threatens wildlife:** Entanglement, ingestion and habitat disruption all result from plastic ending up in the spaces where animals live. In our oceans alone, plastic debris outweighs zooplankton by a ratio of 36-to-1.

- **Plastic costs billions to abate:** Everything suffers: tourism, recreation, business, the health of humans, animals, fish and birds—because of plastic pollution. The financial damage continuously being inflicted is inestimable.

That debris ends up on the shorelines of communities like mine, St. Paul Island, an island community in the Bering Sea where waste management is a complex issue. We not only manage waste created directly on island, but also must manage the waste that washes up on our shorelines. Not only is the debris unsightly, it also poses a serious threat to our wildlife. Our northern fur seal population is particularly at risk of entanglement in debris, and we have disentangled many fur seals over the past several decades. North fur seals are important components of the St. Paul Island ecosystem and are also a critical subsistence resource for our community. Because northern fur seal populations have declined drastically over time, each individual is critical for the population's health and recovery. Losing an individual through entanglement or some other harm from marine debris would be devastating for the future of the northern fur seal population. We have conducted formal large scale marine debris cleanups for at least two decades now, collecting over 10 tons of debris from a fraction of our shorelines in May 2017 alone.

The St. Paul Island community recognized the harm plastics were causing to the ecosystem and came together as a community to ban plastic shopping bags from the local store. This occurred in the late 1990s, and since that time community members have adapted to the lack of plastic shopping bags by using reusable shopping bags or cardboard boxes. It did not pose a burden on the community, and in fact earned a great deal of support when the ban was proposed. In the time since the plastic bag ban, waste management has gotten easier, and community members have noticed a stark difference in litter around the neighborhood, with no plastic bags flying around the island as litter.

Any steps towards reducing single-use plastics in the state of Alaska would bring us closer to protecting our freshwater and marine resources from the harms of plastic pollution. This includes the plastic bag ban proposed in HB264. Please consider this bill in order to protect our water resources and the future of our ecosystems and wildlife across Alaska.

Sincerely,



Lauren Divine

Co-Director, Ecosystem Conservation Office

Aleut Community of St. Paul Island

**From:** Mary A. Vavrik  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**Subject:** HB 264  
**Date:** Sunday, March 11, 2018 7:29:46 PM

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I am writing to express my support for HB 264 to ban plastic bags in the Municipality of Anchorage. Plastic bags are an environmental hazard to wildlife, ruin the beautiful scenery of Alaska when they are flying around in the wind, and unnecessarily fill up landfills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mary A. Vavrik  
907-345-3934  
[mvavrik@gci.net](mailto:mvavrik@gci.net)  
11930 Northern Raven Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516-1935

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Caitlyn Ellis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 264 Shopping Bag Fees & Recycling  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4:15:03 PM

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**From:** Mark D. Spivey <mds318@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2018 7:23 PM  
**To:** Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 264 Shopping Bag Fees & Recycling

To the Honorable Reps. Josephson, Drummond, and Guttenberg,

I am writing regarding House Bill 264 and I wanted to let you know that you have my full support! I am newly transplanted to Fairbanks (8 months) and plastic bag waste has been a huge grievance with me. There is absolutely no reason to have such waste when reusable shopping bags are superior in every way.

My biggest concern with the HB 264 is enforcement. The 20¢ per bag is a user fee, and the collection and enforcement may dissuade potential supporters as too much trouble. It might be simpler to ban them outright with a 6 month stay, allowing people plenty of time to buy reusable bags and let retailers exhaust their supplies.

Any way I can help support this bill, just let me know!

v/r,

Mark D. Spivey  
907.687.2071  
Fairbanks



**From:** Kate and Steve  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB 264  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 10:11:18 AM

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Dear committee members,

Please support the HB264 ban on plastic bags.

Plastic bags waste important oil resources and pose a long term environmental impact. Even as they slowly break down they become a potential killer of more and more small animals upon which our ecosystem depends.

Kate Wedemeyer  
3708 Checkmate Drive  
Anchorage



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



March 17, 2018

The Honorable Sam Kito, Chair  
House Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK, 99801

RE: Support for Ban on plastic bags

Dear Chairman Kito and Members of the Committee:

Mid Valley Recycling in Big Lake, Alaska, Mat-Su Borough, is a group of volunteers that operates a recycling site at the Mat-Su Borough's Waste Transfer Site. We have been in existence for about five years.

In addition to actually operating a recycling site, the group promotes recycling through outreach to the community and educational events. We strongly support the reduction of single-use plastic grocery bags. The bags are a hazard to wildlife, to our environment and to our own personal health.

Plastic bags know no boundaries. They move down waterways and into the ocean. It is very likely that a bag which escapes in the wind in the Mat-Su Borough will end up clinging to wildlife in the Bering Sea. The bag can easily be ingested and cause the death of the animal. A statewide ban will greatly reduce the spread of these toxic bags. We encourage the passage of HB 264.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia Fisher, Vice President  
Mid Valley Recycling



*"Together We Are Turning it Around"*

Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS)  
PO Box 876464  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687  
P: 907.745.5544  
F: 907.745.5569  
[www.valleyrecycling.org](http://www.valleyrecycling.org)

Dear Chairman Kito and Members of the Committee:

I am Mollie Boyer, the Executive Director of the Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS). We provide the recycling program for the Mat-Su. As part of our program we also provide education on recycling.

VCRS supports changing the HB 264 legislation to legislation that will ban single use plastic grocery bags under 4 mils.

Four years ago, 3 graders attending a fieldtrip at our recycling center began our education on the deadly impact of plastic bags in the Mat-Su. After they learned which plastics they could recycle at our center and what plastic is made from one of them raised their hand and shared that earlier that day as part of their fieldtrip they had gone to the UAF Experiment Farm. During the presentation by the Fish & Game researcher at the farm they were shown nine plastic bags that were pulled from a caribou stomach that morning. This was the first we heard about plastic bags in the stomachs of local animals so I called the researcher. He shared that this is normal and he goes out every morning to pick up any plastic that has blown into the corralled area. Two of their caribou have died from blockage from plastic. He has pulled plastic bags out of moose stomachs too but has not had a moose die from the blockage that they know of. The type of ruminant that caribou are make them more vulnerable.

Plastic bags do not decompose they photodegrade, breaking down into smaller pieces of plastic when exposed to the sun. In the darkness of a stomach, the bags cannot even break down. Third graders educated us on plastic being a problem on the land and in our neighborhoods not just in our oceans.

As we have shared their story, we have been learned and continue learn more about animals dying from blockage from plastic. Agate Inn, a local bed & breakfast with reindeer, let us know that they have had a least two reindeer die from blockage. The veterinarian that did the necropsies on their reindeer shared that this is not uncommon, regularly the necropsies he does on young animals, including pets, he identifies that they have died from blockage from plastic.

We have learned about local dogs and a horse that have died from blockage from plastic bags. A nurse shared that while working in the Emergency Room she has treated young children, toddlers, with blockage from chewing on and sucking in plastic. The news of negative impacts on local animals continues to come forward. Unfortunately, deaths from plastic can only be confirmed if a necropsy is done. And necropsies are expensive.

From the impacts on state economics via the fishing industry and tourism, to livestock and subsistence, to the health of our pets and our children, the negative impacts from plastic bags are real. Unfortunately, the bags are not just unsightly they are deadly in our environment.

This is an important issue for the state of Alaska to address for the long-term good of all Alaskans. Thank you for working on this legislation to reduce the negative impact of single use disposable grocery bags in Alaska and Thank you to the children for raising our awareness – let's show them that we can do better.

Sincerely,

Mollie Boyer  
Executive Director

[director@valleyrecycling.org](mailto:director@valleyrecycling.org)

*Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible charitable organization - EIN #92-0174289.*

Our vision is to establish the greater Mat-Su Borough as a model zero landfill community.

Our mission is to operate a cutting edge Resource Recovery & Training Park while educating, training, and fostering partnerships to reduce, reuse, and recycle for the long term good of all.

**From:** Carol Montgomery  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** HB 264  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2018 10:23:39 AM

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March 16, 2018

The Honorable Sam Kito, Chair  
House Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK, 99801

RE: Support for Ban on plastic bags

Dear Chairman Kito and Members of the Committee:

The Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition is a citizen's group that promotes recycling, and the reduction of single use plastic grocery bags. Recently, Wasilla passed a ban on plastic bags, and the Ordinance had strong community support. The Ordinance was approved 5 to 1 by the Wasilla City Council. Written public comments were 47 to 1 in favor, public comments were 2 to 1 in favor, and a poll by the Frontiersman newspaper showed 57% support for the ban.

A tax on single use plastic bags has less support among the public, and does not eliminate these bags from the environment. The Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition supports banning single use grocery bags, rather than taxing them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carol Montgomery

Chair Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition Plastic Bag Committee

[Anclm4@mtaonline.net](mailto:Anclm4@mtaonline.net)

**From:** Kate and Steve  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 12:42:52 PM

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Please pass out the plastic bag ban for passage by the full house. Plastic bags are a waste of oil resources, a big litter problem and after break down pose a hazard to large and small animals important in our ecology.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Kate Wedemeyer  
3708 Checkmate Drive  
Anchorage



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I am contacting you in support of HB 264. I appreciate this time to share my concerns with you.

I am a Matanuska Susitna resident and have been over the past 10 years. I own a home in Wasilla and know all about the wind here in the valley. That being said I drive the highway to Fairbanks a couple times a week for work. The valley is not the only place to experience high winds in this state so I think it is time to get the state involved in the ban of plastic bags statewide.

I want discuss the economics of this state. Our oil business is not a dependable re source and has declined over the years, forcing many layoff and unemployment. We have **tourism** and the **fishing industry** left. We need to look at how much these plastic bags affect each of these industries because this affects us all in Alaska.

There is so much information available about the plastic in the oceans and water ways. I feel everyone would agree we need to keep the plastic out of our water ways. Fish and other sea life are dying by plastic netting and garbage floating in the water .The longer the plastic remains in the water the smaller it gets, but it NEVER completely goes away. The fish are eating it and in turn we are going to be eating it.

Our salmon industry is already in trouble .Commercial fishermen have the times they fish shortened and local rivers and streams are being closed due to low fish count. Fishing opportunities are shrinking. When I have friends come up to Alaska they want to go fishing. I have to tell them rivers are off limits due to low fish runs. Soon people will not want to take charters out. This will affect many Alaskans that depend on that income to support them all year.

I have heard about a couple coastal cities trying to do something to stop the plastic going in to the ocean and I applaud them. Cordova and Kodiak passed the bag ban and Homer reconsidering it. Smaller communities in the bush have banned bags so they don't have to see them blowing through the tundra out in the middle of no where while hunting. Little Glennallen took it on to get rid of the bags without any problems. These need to show our support and continue banning these obtrusive destructive single use bags. The harm they do is far worse than the inconvenience of remembering to bring your bag with to the store. We are creatures of habit and change can be hard but not impossible. This is not just a "tree hugger" problem, it is all Alaskans.

This state is supposed to be pristine beauty that the tourist will love and tell all their friends about, and want to come back. We want and NEED the income from them taking trains, buses and boats to see this beautiful state. We don't want them asking what those things are stuck in our trees and fences and along the roadsides.

We can all do our LITTLE part. It is a SMALL sacrifice to not have those plastic bags that are used over abundantly. I have heard the argument that there will still be plastic in the ocean but it has to start somewhere. There are countries so far ahead of us on this issue. Why is Alaska always the last one to do something? I URGE you to consider our industry in Alaska, as it affects all.

Marvin Wilson

I am writing in favor of House Bill HB264. My name is Annemieke Powers and I live outside Palmer. I am a small business owner and a civil engineer who has worked for the last 25 years or so in cleaning up contaminated sites.

My main concern with plastic bags is the long term economic and environmental impact of plastic pollution. Even when people properly dispose of these bags, too many bags blow out of the landfill, trash bins and other containers. They are very light and easily transported by water and wind, of which we certainly have an abundance in Alaska.

In my professional experience, it is cheaper to prevent pollution at the source than to pay for cleanup after the fact. A bag ban or, even more effectively, a bag fee does exactly that. It reduces pollution at the source. The World Economic Forum, in 2016, predicted that at current rates of pollution, the world's oceans would contain more plastic by weight than fish by the year 2050. This impairment to the oceans and fisheries could have a future economic impact to Alaskans. Protecting the salmon industry was one of the main reasons that Cordova successfully imposed a bag ban in 2016. And we have not even begun to assess the impact to the food chains of land animals. At the Mat-Su Experimental Farm plastic bags have already been found in the stomachs of caribou and moose. Alaskans rely heavily on the beauty and health of our land and waters for tourism, hunting and fishing and I think we should be proactive in protecting these resources.

Since plastic pollution is widespread and not the sole responsibility of any one person, corporation or nation, most clean-up costs will likely be borne by government entities which means it will eventually be paid for by the taxpayers. That means by you and by me. If we don't act, our kids and grandkids will bear an even larger cost as the pollution problem will not go away by itself, but will just grow. Banning or imposing a fee on these bags certainly won't eliminate all plastic pollution, but it is a very simple means of eliminating one, widely used pollution source. And it is something that can be controlled by the individual. I cannot control how companies package their goods, but I can control how I carry them from the store to my car.



Lastly in regards to the question of government overreach, to me, this bill does not affect what I buy, how much I buy, or where I shop. It does not affect what I do with the items I buy. It only affects how I carry the items out of the store. There are many ways to carry out your purchases and I think Alaskans are resourceful enough to come up with their own ideas. My household stopped using plastic grocery bags years ago and honestly, it has not been a hardship. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** Carol Montgomery  
**To:** [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Cc:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB 264: comments on testimony of Matt Seaholm  
**Date:** Friday, April 6, 2018 1:25:17 PM

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The Honorable Sam Kito, Chair  
Alaska House Labor and Commerce Committee

RE: Support for HB 264  
Dear Chairman Kito and Members of the Committee:

Matt Seaholm, the Executive Director of the American Progressive Bag Alliance, headquartered in Washington D.C. gave testimony on April 4th, re: HB 264, a Bill intended to reduce the negative impact of lightweight single use disposable plastic shopping bags in Alaska. In his testimony he made several claims that we would like to address.

First, He claimed that bag bans had never delivered a significant reduction in waste and litter. He specifically claimed that San Francisco Bay litter increased after their bag ban. The litter audit he cited was conducted before that ban took full effect. A report from the city of San Jose found a reduction of 89% in the storm drain system, 60% in the creeks and rivers, and 59% in the City streets and neighborhoods following their plastic bag ban. In Ireland, a plastic bag tax led to a 95% reduction in plastic bag litter.

Here in AK plastic bag litter is irrefutable. Attached is a picture of litter in our community of Palmer. Hooper Bay, one of the first communities in AK to ban these bags, gave testimony that they have seen reduction in plastic bag litter, and decided to continue the ban because of it.

Mr. Seaholm also claimed that Denmark did not ban plastic bags, but in fact, Denmark was the one of the first European country to place a fee to reduce plastic bags. Mr. Seaholm also claimed that the government of Quebec claimed plastic bags had far less impact than any other bag, but, in fact, the City of Montreal banned thin plastic bags in 2017.

Mr. Seaholm made the distracting claim that reusable shopping bags made from cotton had a significant impact on human health and the environment. In fact, most of the reusable shopping bags, are made from polypropylene plastic, which, because they are reused, have the lowest carbon footprint of all alternatives.

When asked what he would propose as a solution to the plastic bag problem, he replied that recycling was the solution. Recycling is a good answer to a lot of our waste problems. Unfortunately, if a bag doesn't get in the recycling bin it doesn't get recycled. Lightweight plastic bags blow away so easily, they rarely make it to the recycling stream. At present, only 1-3% of these bags get recycled.

In summary, This testimony from American Progressive Bag Alliance demonstrates how statistics can be cherry picked to support the agenda of an industry that is selling plastic bags, and not the long term good of Alaskans. The indisputable facts remain that these lightweight single use disposable plastic bags are killing our local wildlife, our waterfowl, and getting into our salmon. As Alaskans we care about our food and our resources and we live here. Mr Seaholm, who works for a company in Washington D.C. does not live here and we do.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Patti Fisher, Carol Montgomery, and Mollie Boyer  
Mat-Su Zero Waste Coalition



*"Together We Are Turning it Around"*

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To the Labor & Commerce Committee:

I am Mollie Boyer, the Executive Director of the Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS). We provide the recycling program for the Mat-Su. As part of our program we also provide education on recycling.

VCRS supports changing the HB 264 legislation to legislation that will ban single use plastic grocery bags under 4 mils.

Four years ago, 3 graders attending a fieldtrip at our recycling center began our education on the deadly impact of plastic bags in the Mat-Su. After they learned which plastics they could recycle at our center and what plastic is made from one of them raised their hand and shared that earlier that day as part of their fieldtrip they had gone to the UAF Experiment Farm. During the presentation by the Fish & Game researcher at the farm they were shown nine plastic bags that were pulled from a caribou stomach that morning. This was the first we heard about plastic bags in the stomachs of local animals so I called the researcher. He shared that this is normal and he goes out every morning to pick up any plastic that has blown into the corralled area. Two of their caribou have died from blockage from plastic. He has pulled plastic bags out of moose stomachs too but has not had a moose die from the blockage that they know of. The type of ruminant that caribou are make them more vulnerable.

Plastic bags do not decompose they photodegrade, breaking down into smaller pieces of plastic when exposed to the sun. In the darkness of a stomach, the bags cannot even break down. Third graders educated us on plastic being a problem on the land and in our neighborhoods not just in our oceans.

As we have shared their story, we have been learned and continue learn more about animals dying from blockage from plastic. Agate Inn, a local bed & breakfast with reindeer, let us know that they have had a least two reindeer die from blockage. The veterinarian that did the necropsies on their reindeer shared that this is not uncommon, regularly the necropsies he does on young animals, including pets, he identifies that they have died from blockage from plastic.

We have learned about local dogs and a horse that have died from blockage from plastic bags. A nurse shared that while working in the Emergency Room she has treated young children, toddlers, with blockage from chewing on and sucking in plastic. The news of negative impacts on local animals continues to come forward. Unfortunately, deaths from plastic can only be confirmed if a necropsy is done. And necropsies are expensive.

From the impacts on state economics via the fishing industry and tourism, to livestock and subsistence, to the health of our pets and our children, the negative impacts from plastic bags are real. Unfortunately, the bags are not just unsightly they are deadly in our environment.

This is an important issue for the state of Alaska to address for the long-term good of all Alaskans. Thank you for working on this legislation to reduce the negative impact of single use disposable grocery bags in Alaska and Thank you to the children for raising our awareness – let's show them that we can do better.

Sincerely,

Mollie Boyer  
Executive Director

[director@valleyrecycling.org](mailto:director@valleyrecycling.org)

*Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible charitable organization - EIN #92-0174289.*

Our vision is to establish the greater Mat-Su Borough as a model zero landfill community.

Our mission is to operate a cutting edge Resource Recovery & Training Park while educating, training, and fostering partnerships to reduce, reuse, and recycle for the long term good of all.