

## Arnold Liebelt

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**From:** Anna Thompson <anna.lorraine.thompson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2019 3:33 AM  
**To:** House Community and Regional Affairs  
**Subject:** Public testimony: HB81 Prohibit Plastic Retail Bags

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to review my written testimony in regards to HB81 Prohibit Plastic Retail Bags.

Americans dispose of over 100 million plastic bags per year and only a fraction of these are ever recycled. Plastic bags are not biodegradable and end up in landfills and are often mistaken for food by birds and marine mammals.

Alaskans have always taken pride in the beautiful land we call home. As stewards of the land, it is up to us to help protect what we have been charged with. Removing plastics bags from widespread use is a key step in working towards a green and sustainable future.

Switching from plastic bags at the grocery store to reusable bags is one of the easiest steps we can make. Once the option for plastic is no longer there, it is a relatively short time before average citizens make the simple step to using reusable bags. The United Kingdom has made this step and plastic bags are not available at check-out counters throughout the country. It is now simply standard the reusable bags are brought to the grocery store. We lived without plastic bags before, we can do it again.

We will save ourselves and our planet time and money if we can take this step toward reducing of plastic problem. While it may now take that little extra time to remember to bring a reusable bag to the grocery store that simple step is one to help protect Alaska. It will help to protect our birds, fish, streams, and the people who are lucky enough to call Alaska home.

Please allow me to share this quote by Ann-Marie Bonneau a zero-waste chef:

"We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly."

The same idea applies to any movement, we don't need bunch of people doing it perfectly. What we need is a bunch of people trying.

Thank you for your time. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to share my voice on the matter.

Respectfully,

Anna Lorraine Thompson  
Petersburg, Alaska

**Arnold Liebelt**

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**From:** Janelle Eklund <jeklund@cvinternet.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2019 7:46 PM  
**To:** House Community and Regional Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 81

Hello,

I support HB 81 banning single use plastic shopping bags. I have heard too many horror stories of animals dying by ingesting them. We are contaminating our planet which includes our food supply. Please pass HB 81.

Thank you.

Janelle Eklund  
Kenny Lake, Alaska

## Arnold Liebelt

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**From:** LIO Homer  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2019 9:18 AM  
**To:** House Community and Regional Affairs  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB 81

Please see the forwarded email below regarding HB81.

Thank you,

*~Amber*

[Homer Legislative Information Office](#) 270 W. Pioneer Ave | Homer, AK 99603

PHONE: (907)-235-7878 | FAX: (907) 235-4008 | E-Mail: [Homer.LIO@akleg.gov](mailto:Homer.LIO@akleg.gov)

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**From:** Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay <[vivandclyde@gmail.com](mailto:vivandclyde@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2019 6:10 PM

**To:** LIO Homer <[Lio.Homer@akleg.gov](mailto:Lio.Homer@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Support for HB 81

I would like to express support for this bill to prohibit plastic retail bags.

Thank you.

Vivian Finlay

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

**From:** James Bethany <jamesleebethany@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2019 5:16 PM  
**To:** House Community and Regional Affairs  
**Subject:** HB81: Written testimony

Dear Co-Chair Rep. Drummond, Co-Chair Rep. Hannan, Rep. Claman, Rep. Jackson, Rep. Kreiss-Thomkins, Rep. Revak and, Rep. Thompson.

My name is James L. Bethany. I am representing myself and I live in Anchorage, AK (for the past 28 years). I am writing to provide written testimony in regards to HB81.

I fully support HB81. As a former resident of Bethel, Alaska, where I initially lived when I first came to Alaska in May of 1990. I can personally attest to the awful sight of seeing Alaska Commercial Company single use plastic bags, and the horrible sight of seeing those plastic bags scattered across the tundra, during the summer bird nesting and salmon season.

I can also attest to being a 28-year community volunteer in Anchorage and having to cleanup countless single use plastic bags, throughout the Anchorage community. I have had to remove single

use plastic bags from trees, chainlink fences, and water ways throughout the Anchorage community. In fact, I am attaching a picture of a single use plastic bag caught in a tree at my residence, that I saw today (Friday - April 5, 2019 at 16:44), located near the corner of Lake Otis Parkway and Dowling Road, in Anchorage, Alaska.

I understand that Bethel citizens took the initiative to ban single use plastic bags, which I applaud, and I also realize that Mat-Su Valley residents have done the same, and I think it is time to ban single use plastic bags, statewide. To those who argue that it will be too complicated or cumbersome to adjust to life without the option of using single use plastic bags, I say nonsense. I have adjusted very well, because I have purchased and I use: two 5-gallon buckets and several smaller buckets, when I need to purchase goods in Anchorage. I have attached a picture of some of the buckets that I use when purchasing goods in Anchorage.

In closing, I urge you to support HB81 and get it through the legislative process and onto the governor's desk, to be signed into law. Thank you.

Best regards,

James Bethany

Anchorage, AK

- AARP member & community volunteer
- AFL-CIO national member & community volunteer
- Alaska AFL-CIO member & community volunteer
- Alaska Federation of Natives community volunteer
- Alaska Fly Fishers member & community volunteer
- Alaska Nurses Association community volunteer
- Alaska State Parks community volunteer
- Alaska State Fish & Game community volunteer
- American Red Cross - Alaska member & community volunteer
- Americorps Alumni member & community volunteer
- Anchorage Central Labor Council member & community volunteer
- Anchorage District Council of Laborers member & community volunteer
- Anchorage Glacier Pilots Baseball Club community volunteer
- Associated General Contractors of Alaska member & community volunteer
- Anchorage Park Foundation community volunteer
- Anchorage Municipal Parks & Recreation community volunteer

- Boy Scouts of America Alumni & community volunteer
- British Guilded Society member & community volunteer
- Campbell Park Community Council resident & community volunteer
- Cherokee Nation Citizen & community volunteer
- Ducks Unlimited member & community volunteer
- FFA Oklahoma Alumni & community volunteer
- Laborers' International Union of North America member & community volunteer
- LIUNA, Local 341 member & community volunteer
- National Geographic Society member & community volunteer
- Northwest District Council of Laborers member & community volunteer
- REI member & community volunteer
- Southcentral Foundation community volunteer
- Trout Unlimited member & community volunteer
- UAA Alumni Association member & community volunteer
- UAA Human Services Club Alumni & community volunteer
- UAA Justice Club Alumni & community volunteer
- UAA Social Work Club Alumni & community volunteer

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management community volunteer
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service community volunteer







