

Contact your elected officials! Ask them to ban bags!

Dear Council Members,

Disposable single-use plastic bags, introduced just 25 years ago, are currently consumed at an alarming global rate of 500 billion per year. As a concerned citizen and constituent of Weber County, I am writing to ask you to consider introducing legislation that taxes these bags, a solution proven effective around the world.

Single-use disposable bags present an insidious threat to our environment on multiple levels. They often wind up in waterways or on the landscape, becoming eyesores and degrading water and soil as they break down into tiny toxic bits. Their manufacture, transportation and disposal use large quantities of non-renewable resources and release equally large amounts of global-warming gases. This overuse of disposable plastic bags is simply unsustainable, and we must find an alternative.

These problems can be mitigated by simply advocating—and legislating—the consumption of fewer disposable bags and the use of reusable ones. One easy way to do this is by charging for their usage at the point of purchase. This was successfully done in many California cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Jose. Similar legislation has also been very effective abroad. Ireland first instituted a plastic bag fee in 2002, which has since slashed consumption over 90% and raised \$9.6 million for environmental and waste management projects. Retailers were happy, as well: they both saved the costs of bag purchases and improved their public image by doing the right thing.

Please consider legislation for a plastic bag fee here in Ogden City. It creates a foundation for both consumer responsibility and market-based solutions to environmental problems. And it's an easy, win-win solution to a problem that has gotten out of control.

Sincerely, _____

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