

KATHY WARD

From: Steve Bender <steve.bender@newportbay.org>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:08 PM
To: KATHY WARD
Subject: Plastics Ban!!!! PLEASE SUPPORT!

February 6, 2012

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As a business in the Orange County, I support an ordinance on single-use plastic bags, and also support SB568; a state-wide ban on polystyrene take-out food packaging. My business has thrived by being committed to sustainability and using food containers and packaging that is earth-friendly and compostable. By being conscientious of the burden that plastic and polystyrene causes, my business has a positive effect on the environment and community.

As a local taxpayer, I am alarmed to find out that Dana Point , along with other municipalities statewide, spend more than \$25 million dollars each year to clean up plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers from public places, storm drains, and in our waste stream. Local taxpayer dollars are also spent to comply with Storm Water Permit requirements and other standards in communities with "trash-impaired" waterways as defined under the Federal Clean Water Act. The proposed ordinance for a plastic bag ban, and state ban on polystyrene containers would help lower clean-up costs in these tough economic times.

The California coast contributes billions of dollars in revenue for the state through tourism, recreation, and healthy marine life. The reduced use of natural resources for bag production and elimination of foam food ware will increase the beauty of our precious resources.

Of the 50 jurisdictions that have enacted bans on both plastic bags and polystyrene food containers, none have reported that any local businesses have closed or proved an economic hardship for them.

Banning the free distribution of plastic bags and polystyrene foam food containers is widely considered an appropriate and practical legislative action that can protect our environment and save our financial resources. This approach is similar to other jurisdictions around the region and state. Thus, I strongly urge you to move forward on your support of both banning plastic bags and polystyrene food containers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Agenda Item No. 11 & 12
2/7/12

Steve Bender

OC Green Chamber of Commerce

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