

June 4, 2024

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
California State Assembly
16th Assembly District
12677 Alcosta Boulevard, Suite 395
San Ramon, CA 94583

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 2236: Reusable Grocery Bag Standards; Plastic Film Prohibition

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

On behalf of the City of Eureka and the Eureka City Council, I write in support of AB 2236, which would eliminate the existing exemption of plastic film bags from the plastic bag ban, requires grocery and certain retail stores to no longer provide these bags to their customers, increases standards for reusable bags, and recyclability standards for paper bags.

After a decade under SB 270, it has become clear that California has not eliminated plastic grocery bags. The standards for reusable bags have resulted in exempt bags that are simply made of thicker plastic. However, relatively few consumers re-use these exempt plastic bags for shopping. According to reports, many of these bags are returned to the store for recycling, but still end up in the landfill. A recent report from CalRecycle suggests that over 5 billion of these bags ended up in the landfill in 2021 alone. AB 2236 is a long-awaited fix to the exemption abuses that have taken place since SB 270 purported to ban the plastic bag.

The City of Eureka is the county seat of Humboldt County, California, and is the heart of the Redwood Coast. Eureka is the market and cultural center of a beautiful region surrounded by the world's tallest trees and rugged ocean landscapes. The City is known for its Victorian architecture and creative and welcoming culture. The City also supports common sense, pro-active solutions to the environmental issues of our time, and as such, is a supporter of legislation that seeks to prevent billions of plastic bags ending up in the landfill every year.

For these reasons, the City of Eureka lends its voice to the broad support for AB 2236. Thank you for considering our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kim Bergel
Mayor
City of Eureka

