

June 18, 2024

Senator Catherine Blakespear  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6520  
Sacramento, CA 95824

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1053: Reusable Grocery Bag Standards; Plastic Film Prohibition

Dear Senator Blakespear,

On behalf of the City of Eureka and the Eureka City Council, I write in support of SB 1053, 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. SB 1053 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 SB 1053. Thank you for considering our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kim Bergel  
Mayor  
City of Eureka

