

### **Most merchants support bag ban**

Editors of the *Reformer*:

Brattleboro residents are urging the Brattleboro Selectboard to ban plastic bags from retail establishments in town. In a recent editorial (March 10) by the Brattleboro Reformer, it was stated that the opposition to a new ordinance might come from local retailers.

As the downtown organization, Downtown Brattleboro Alliance quickly created and executed a poll to find out if that statement accurately reflected the downtown merchants perspective. 32 merchants responded to the poll and here are our findings: 78 percent of the businesses support the concept

of creating an ordinance, 9 percent do not support and 13 percent were neutral. The business community in Brattleboro is a vital, integrated part of our larger community. This poll demonstrates that the majority of businesses downtown are already working and supporting our town in continuing to fulfill its persona of a compassionate and green town.

There are many cities, states and countries which have already implemented policies concerning plastic bag usage. Between 2015 and 2016 at least 77 bills have been proposed by 23 states. Rather than leading the way Brattleboro is following momentum. Let's do this and let's follow proven policy precedence and the great suggestions and perspectives that came from the DBA poll.

When we include all voices in dialogue and use data collection tools, we can move away from assumptions about the downtown business community.

DBA is committed to heightening collaboration between all constituents in downtown to innovate and move toward greater sustainability for our community.

*Downtown Brattleboro  
Alliance Board  
March 22*