

State of Vermont
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: Testimony in support of S.113 - An act relating to the prohibition of plastic carryout bags, expanded polystyrene food service products, and single-use plastic straws.

To Vermont Legislators,

We, the undersigned residents of Vermont are ready to be
DONE WITH SINGLE USE PLASTICS!

We support bill S.113 AND make the following recommendations:

- **Divide bill S.113 into two separate bills** in order to take timely action:
 - Move forward on the prohibition of banning single use plastic bags and implement Straws Upon Request this year.
 - Create a second, companion bill carving out the study and ban on expanded polystyrene food service products. This initiative deserves study AND it should not hold up action on the other components of S.113
- **Redefine single-use plastic carry out bags** to be those having a thickness of less than 4 mils. The current version of the bill identifies a bag thickness of 2.25 mils as the line between single-use and reusable. The 2.25 mils cutoff allows stores to hand out slightly thicker single-use bags, which will likely add to landfill waste and plastic litter. A 4 mil minimum thickness will help close this loophole. A 4 mil limit has already been implemented by at least 25 cities in California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Texas.¹
- **Require paper bags to have recycled content.** California requires "at least 40% post-consumer recycled content".² This lowers the environmental impact from paper bag use, and increases demand for recycled paper.
- **Expand the minimum fee on paper bags to also apply to any plastic bags** which still may be available for carryout.

Sincerely,

Vermont Residents

¹ <http://www.retailcrc.org/RegGuidance/rcracompliance/Pages/bagMatrix.aspx>

² <https://www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts/designing-and-implementing-bag-laws>

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Scott McCamp, Williston
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Jill Carberry, Williston
Jeff Fehrs, Williston
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Meg Thomas, Williston
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Doug Thorburn, Hinesburg

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Kelsey Carruth, Hinesburg
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