



CITY OF MILPITAS

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455 EAST CALAVERAS BOULEVARD, MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA 95035-5411
GENERAL INFORMATION: 408.586.3000 www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov

August 3, 2010

Senator Ellen M. Corbett
State Capital, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 1998 (Brownley) -- Single-Use Reduction Act: SUPPORT As Amended

Dear Senator Corbett:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Milpitas, I submit this letter in support of the Single-Use Bag Reduction Act (Assembly Bill 1998) as amended. AB 1998 would ban plastic single-use carryout bags and regulate paper carryout bags at supermarkets, retail pharmacies, and convenience stores throughout the state. It would also regulate the distribution of paper bags to encourage customers to use reusable bags.

Californians use an estimated 19 billion single-use bags every year. Despite efforts to expand recycling programs, less than 5% of single-use plastic bags are currently being recycled. The remaining bags end up in landfills or as litter, clogging stormdrain systems, or making their way to our waterways and ocean.

AB 1998 will create a uniform policy for addressing all types of single-use bags while encouraging consumers to use reusable bags, the most sustainable alternative. California has a critical role to play in becoming a true leader in eliminating plastic bag waste and preventing the proliferation of plastic pollution. The passage of AB 1998 is the first step in achieving sound environmental policy goals and showing leadership in statewide environmental protection.

On behalf of the City of Milpitas, I urge your support on this vital piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert Livengood, Mayor
City of Milpitas

cc: Julia Brownley, Assemblymember – District 41
Alberto Torrico, Assemblymember – District 20
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor