

**From:** [alrychel@gmail.com](mailto:alrychel@gmail.com)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** I support a strong plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 9:26:04 PM

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I am pleased to hear that Somerville is considering enacting a plastic bag ban. I support a strong plastic bag ban similar to what we had in Seattle when I lived there (I moved from Seattle to Somerville last year). No form of disposable plastic bag should be offered as a substitute for any price. Customers should pay for paper, bring a reusable bag, or buy a reusable bag in the store.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rychel  
18 Fellsway W #1  
Somerville

**From:** [Ananda L](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 11:46:03 PM

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Dear Mayor Curtatone,

I have been a resident of Somerville for almost 25 years. I think Somerville (and other cities) should ban plastic bags, not replace them with the compostable plastic bags which do not degrade in landfills. So many people have gotten comfortable with carrying their own reusable bags, and this is the right time for a plastic bag ban. I am very concerned about environmental problems that Somerville will face in the years to come, especially now that I am raising a child. I fully support a ban on plastic bags.

Ananda Lowe  
5 Waldo Ave. #1A

**From:** [A Kolokithas](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 6:23:32 AM

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As a resident of Somerville, I am in support of a FULL plastic bag ban in the city's retail stores. I don't support switching to biodegradable bags.

Thank you for your time.

Anastasia Kolokithas

**From:** Andrea Ranger [mailto:[andrearanger@gmail.com](mailto:andrearanger@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 4:10 PM  
**To:** John Long  
**Subject:** In Support of Plastic Bag Ban

Hi John,

I just wanted to register my support of the plastic bag ban in Somerville as proposed by the Board of Alderman recently. That's it!

Thank you,  
Andrea Ranger

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Andrea Ranger  
25 Munroe St, #2  
Somerville, MA 02143  
Ph. (617) 233-0348  
Email: [andrearanger@gmail.com](mailto:andrearanger@gmail.com)

**From:** [Andrew Carothers](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** I support a ban on plastic bags in Somerville  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 3:15:06 AM

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Dear Aldermen,

I am a resident of Somerville and I support the proposed ban on plastic bags. This is clearly what is best for our community, our country, our world, and the lives of the future generations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Carothers, Somerville Resident

82 Munroe Street #6  
Somerville, MA 02143

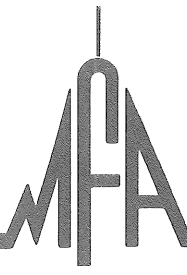
**From:** Brian Houghton <[bhoughton@mafood.com](mailto:bhoughton@mafood.com)>

**Date:** September 30, 2015 at 4:48:53 PM EDT

**To:** "[MJRossetti@somervillema.gov](mailto:MJRossetti@somervillema.gov)" <[MJRossetti@somervillema.gov](mailto:MJRossetti@somervillema.gov)>, "[M.Niedergang@comcast.net](mailto:M.Niedergang@comcast.net)" <[M.Niedergang@comcast.net](mailto:M.Niedergang@comcast.net)>, "[katjana@katjana.org](mailto:katjana@katjana.org)" <[katjana@katjana.org](mailto:katjana@katjana.org)>, "[mmclaughlin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mmclaughlin@somervillema.gov)" <[mmclaughlin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mmclaughlin@somervillema.gov)>, "[william.a.white@verizon.net](mailto:william.a.white@verizon.net)" <[william.a.white@verizon.net](mailto:william.a.white@verizon.net)>

**Subject:** Testimony for tonight's Legislative Matters Committee

Please see attached and below. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



# MASSACHUSETTS FOOD ASSOCIATION

President  
CHRISTOPHER FLYNN

31 MILK STREET, SUITE 518

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

(617) 542-3085

FAX: (617) 542-3505

Email: mafood@mafood.com

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Stop & Shop

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Imperial Distributors

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Kraft Foods  
SAM SWEET  
King Arthur Flour

TED WILLIAMSON  
Nestle Waters N.A.  
PAMELA WOODS  
Ocean Spray Cranberries

\* Ex-Officio

\*\* Honorary

September 30, 2015

Dear Chair Rossetti,

My name is Brian Houghton; I am the Vice President of the Massachusetts Food Association, a trade association that represents the Commonwealth's grocery and supermarket industry on all legislative and regulatory issues affecting the retail and non-retail segments of the state's food industry.

On behalf of our retail food store members who operate in the city of Somerville, including Market Basket, Shaws/Star and Stop & Shop, we ask that you consider the following before contemplating a ban on plastic bags in the city:

- The MA Food Association is working with Representative Erlich of the MA Legislature to craft an acceptable statewide plastic bag ban that can be supported by our industry to put all retailers on an even playing field;
- A ban on plastic bags will force shoppers to choose from reusable bags and paper bags, with more using paper bags if they forget reusable ones. Paper bags are not always the best alternative, creating a larger carbon footprint, costing more and using more resources to create and recycle;
- For those who still wish to use plastic bags, they may take their shopping elsewhere where they're allowed, such as Boston Chelsea, Everett and other surrounding cities and towns, moving business out of Somerville;
- For sanitary reasons, plastic bags are ideal for transferring products such as fish, meat and poultry, which can leak in paper bags weakening them and may contaminate reusable bags;

Members of the Association presently take back ALL plastic bags and wrappings for recycling, including other retailer's bags, newspaper bags, plastic product wrapping, etc. If plastic bags are prohibited these recycling programs would need to be altered. If a switch to compostable or marine degradable bags is proposed, it should be understood these bags are not recyclable and contaminate any plastic collected for recycling. Perhaps exploration of ordinances that work for the environment, consumers and business – like those put forth in San Jose, CA, Los Angeles, CA and Washington, DC - are worth exploring to cut down on the distribution of **both** paper and plastic bags and increase reusable bag use.

Our members have taken innovative approaches to not only reduce the distribution of both paper and plastic bags, but also sustainable efforts to reduce their entire waste stream and energy usage, including:

- **REDUCE** - Over 380 MFA member food stores, including those in Somerville, participated in a Memorandum of Understanding the Association signed with the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to reduce the amount of paper AND plastic bags they distribute.



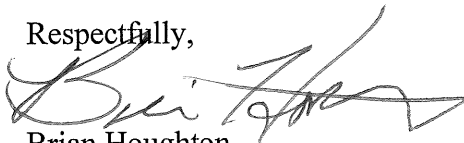
MA DEP has confirmed that our industry met its goal to reduce the amount of disposable bags distributed in MA by 33%, starting in 2007 through 2013. Our goal was realized in 2010, three years early, and we have maintained a nearly 33% reduction rate, as verified by DEP.

- **REUSE** - Participants must also undertake efforts to increase their sale of reusable bags, including: prominent reminder signage in and outside of the store for customers to remember their reusable bags and conspicuous placement of reusable bags for sale with promotional programs used as appropriate;
- **RECYCLE** – The partnership with MA DEP requires food stores to establish in-store bag recycling programs, allowing shoppers to drop off their plastic bags and certain other plastic materials which is then recycled and used to make artificial wood, trim and other plastic bags;
- Efforts are undertaken to reduce the distribution of paper and plastic bags through the training of cashiers to ask customers if they need a bag and through the placement of reusable bag advertising and educational material in circulars. Food stores have increased their purchases of plastic bags with higher recycled content and have used plastic wood and trim made from recycled plastic bags in their construction, trim, benches, etc.
- From 2005 through September 2014, the Massachusetts Food Association worked closely with MA DEP to maintain a voluntary supermarket organics diversion and recycling program, which was mandatory as of October 1, 2014 for all establishments that produce more than one ton of organic material per week (to view website visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/food-waste-ban.html>). Nearly all our members participate in this program, which has been recognized by the EPA and MA Audubon Society for its effectiveness in reducing waste to landfills. Our industry was well ahead of the curve in preparation for the state's ban on organic waste;

Supermarkets do a tremendous amount of recycling and are an integral part of their community. They recycle all shrink wrap and cardboard, keeping it out of their waste stream by having it compressed and bundled in compactors in their stores for recycling. They continue to implement energy efficiency measures through the installation of solar photovoltaic systems, free electric vehicle charging stations in parking lots and high energy efficient lighting throughout their stores to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their sustainability.

Our industry has made great strides in controlling energy use and waste disposal. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the town, the business community and others who may be interested in hearing more about these programs and efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,



Brian Houghton  
Vice President  
MA Food Association  
31 Milk Street, Suite 518  
Boston, MA 02109  
Phone: (617) 542-3085  
Cell: (508) 596-0103  
[www.mafood.com](http://www.mafood.com)

Cc: Members of the Legislative Matters Committee



**From:** [Brooke Forrelli](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 10:12:19 AM

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Dear City Clerk,

I support a full ban on plastic bags, not the proposal to replace regular bags with compostable plastic bags, which don't actually break down in landfills.

Thank you,

Brooke Forrelli

**From:** Chris Greeley <[chris@northwindstrategies.com](mailto:chris@northwindstrategies.com)>

**Date:** September 30, 2015 at 3:34:15 PM EDT

**To:** [BoardofAldermen@somervillema.gov](mailto:BoardofAldermen@somervillema.gov)

**Subject:** Item for the Board of Aldermen

I represent the American Progressive Plastic Bag Alliance here in New England and on behalf of it's Executive Director Lee Califf, who cannot be at tonight's hearing of the Legislative Matters Committee, I wanted to submit the attached testimony. Any questions please fell free to contact me directly.

Thank you.

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September 30, 2015

William A. White, Jr., President (At Large)  
Board of Aldermen  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA

Re: Proposed Plastic Bag Legislation

Dear President White,

My name is Lee Califf, and I serve as executive director of the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA). We represent plastic bag manufacturers and recyclers, an industry that employs more than 30,000 American workers—including 400 Massachusetts residents<sup>i</sup>—and provides a high quality, 100 percent recyclable product to consumers.

I am pleased that the Board of Aldermen has set aside time to hear public testimony on this proposed measure. Thank you. I appreciate this opportunity to set the record straight about the supposed benefits of plastic bag regulation and make clear the risk of unintended costs and consequences that so often accompany ban legislation.

Make no mistake: a plastic bag ban could negatively impact Somerville business owners and consumers, hamstringing the economy and jeopardize jobs, all without any clear positive impact on the environment.

Please consider the following points:

**Plastic bag bans do not, in actuality, benefit the environment, as plastic bags are not a significant contributor to marine or land pollution and actually are less resource intensive than the alternatives.**

- Regulating plastic bags would have little to no impact on litter and waste. The Environmental Protection Agency calculates that retail plastic bags, by weight, account for just 0.3 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream.<sup>ii</sup> And in the Northeast region, plastic bags make up just 1.2% of litter, according to a 2014 Rhode Island litter study.<sup>iii</sup>
- In terms of marine waste, plastic bags pose very little threat to healthy oceans when compared to other issues. Experts suggest that storm water runoff, fertilizer pollution and stray fishing

gear are more significant threats to marine ecosystems.<sup>iv</sup> David Santillo, a marine biologist with Greenpeace, has gone so far as to say, “We are not going to solve the problem of waste by focusing on plastic bags...it’s fishing gear that’s the big problem. On a global basis plastic bags aren’t an issue.”<sup>v</sup>

- When it comes to shorelines, the impact of plastic bags is overstated. In a 2014 coastal cleanup report from the Ocean Conservancy, plastic grocery bags accounted for a fraction of 1% of all items collected on Massachusetts’s beaches.<sup>vi</sup>
- So-called “reusable” bagging alternatives primarily are manufactured abroad and are often produced using nonwoven polypropylene (NWPP)—a material that is not recyclable. NWPP bags, in particular, are made from crude oil, and 95.5% of them end up in landfills.<sup>vii</sup>
- Biodegradable or compostable bags sound good in theory, but are not a reliable alternative for consumers, either. Not only do compostable bags have a larger carbon footprint, but they also must be sent to one of the country’s few industrial composting facilities—otherwise they sit in landfills unable either to decompose or be recycled.<sup>viii</sup>
- In contrast, plastic retail bags are 100% recyclable, produced in the United States and contain meaningful levels of recycled content (via true closed-loop recycling). Further, nine out of ten Americans report reusing their plastic retail bags for various purposes, including disposing of pet waste and packing snacks and lunches.<sup>ix</sup>

**Taking the extreme step of banning plastic retail bags could lead to real negative consequences for Somerville consumers and businesses. Plastic bag bans limit consumer choice, unfairly burden economically vulnerable residents, jeopardize high quality jobs and hurt the economy.**

- Bans on plastic bags take a toll on local supermarkets, shoppers and businesses. Under the threat of fines or other penalties, they force business owners to comply with additional government regulations that mandate measuring, counting, reporting and maintaining records related to the enforcement of these unhelpful laws.
- The increased costs for storeowners to provide alternative bagging options or for shoppers to acquire them adds yet another burden to shoppers’ monthly budgets—effectively making plastic bag bans a regressive tax on Somerville’s hardworking families. For many Bay Staters—especially those who are on fixed- or low-to-middle incomes—every penny counts.
- Banning plastic retail bags in Somerville could hurt the local economy and impact jobs. One study found that a ban on plastic bags negatively impacted retail sales and employment in the bag ban area by shifting business to stores just outside the ban region. In Los Angeles County, stores surveyed within the ban area reported an overall average sales decline of nearly 6% and a 10% reduction in employment. Areas outside the ban reported an overall average sales growth of 9% and a 2.4% increase in employment.<sup>x</sup>

The APBA supports Somerville’s sustainability goals, but the fact is that plastic bag bans and taxes have a terrible record on advancing environmental ambitions. There is no evidence that this type of legislation could effectively alter consumer behavior, reduce the impact to the waste stream or meaningfully decrease the amount of litter. And while targeting such a small portion of waste and litter would have a

negligible environmental impact at best, it could lead to real negative consequences for Somerville businesses and residents.

With this in mind, I urge you to carefully consider these facts and do what is best for Somerville's environment and economy.

Thank you for your time.

Lee Califf  
Executive Director  
American Progressive Bag Alliance

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<sup>i</sup> "Table A-9: Unsupported Plastics Bag Manufacturing Selected Statistics in 2012, by State," Probe Economics, LLC, Size and Impact of the Plastics Industry on the U.S. Economy, 2013, 53.

<sup>ii</sup> "[Municipal Solid Waste Report: 2013 Facts and Figures](#)," United States Environmental Protection Agency, June 2015.

<sup>iii</sup> "2014 Rhode Island Litter Survey," Environmental Resources Planning, LLC, April 4, 2014.

<sup>iv</sup> "[Technical Proceedings of the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference](#)," 2011.

<sup>v</sup> Mostrous, Alexi, "[Series of Blunders Turned the Plastic Bag into Global Villain](#)," *The Times (London)*, March 8, 2008.

<sup>vi</sup> "[Turning the tide on trash](#)" Ocean Conservancy, 2014.

<sup>vii</sup> "[Life Cycle Assessment of Reusable and Single-Use Plastic Bags in California](#)," California State University & Chico Research Foundation, August 2010.

<sup>viii</sup> "[Compostable Biobags Have Higher Carbon Footprint, Report Says](#)," *Environmental Leader*, February 19, 2011.

<sup>ix</sup> "[National Plastic Shopping Bag Recycling Signage Testing: A Survey of the General Population](#)," APCO Insight, March 2007.

<sup>x</sup> Villarreal, Pamela and Baruch Feigenbaum, "[A Survey on the Economic Effects of Los Angeles County's Plastic Bag Ban](#)," National Center for Policy Analysis, August 2012.

**From:** Courtney O'Keefe [mailto:courtney@courtneyokeefe.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:10 PM  
**To:** John Long; Mary Jo. Rossetti  
**Subject:** Proposed Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you doing well.

I would like to submit my testimony for the Proposed Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance in an email as I am not able to attend tonight's public hearing.

Although I am supportive of reducing waste and did vote for the polystyrene ban in 2013 as a member of the Board of Aldermen, I would like to encourage the current Board of Aldermen to take the needs of the small business community, as well as, Somerville families and seniors into very serious consideration before approving this ordinance. Forcing the purchase of reusable or thicker plastic bags are adding more cost to an already very expensive Somerville to live in.

Furthermore, our small business community will have no choice to defray the cost of providing a different bag alternatives by passing it on to the consumer.

Please seek guidance in properly wording this ordinance from all who will be negatively impacted.

Thank you,  
Courtney O'Keefe  
#1 Vinal Street  
Former Ward 5 Alderman

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Ward 7 - upcoming meetings Mon, Sep. 29 & Wed. Sep. 30

Date: 2015-09-28 18:08

From: Heidi Friedman <oggandweatherwax@gmail.com>

To: Katjana Ballantyne <Katjana@katjana.org>

Hi, Katjana.

I am in favor of the ordinance banning plastic bags. I hope to come to the meeting.

Heidi

**From:** [Julia Prange Wallerice](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Support plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 8:49:15 PM

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Dear Somerville Decision-Makers,  
Please support the plastic bag ban for our city- a step in the right direction for the health of our planet and our people. Somerville has become known to set examples for other municipalities who aren't as forward thinking and wise- approving a plastic bag ban could set a domino effect and make us all even more proud to live here!  
Thank you,  
Julia Prange Wallerice  
51 Bow street

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~Julia Prange Wallerice, LEED Green Associate~  
Board of Directors, [LivableStreets Alliance](#): *Rethinking Urban Transportation*

**\*\* We need safer, more livable streets! Will you support my [Tour de Streets 2015](#) ride on 9/12 ?**

**From:** Kara T [mailto:kara07t@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:49 AM  
**To:** John Long  
**Cc:** Katjana Ballantyne  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 198251 - proposed plastic bags ordinance

To the Honorable Board:

I am writing to express my support for a total ban on the use of carry-out plastic bags in convenience stores, grocery stores, pharmacies, and restaurants. I fully support the widespread use of reusable and recyclable bags.

I do not consider a switch to biodegradable bags to be a viable option, because they will not degrade in landfills, or will end up incinerated.

If there are segments of the population who cannot afford reusable bags, perhaps the city could find donors to contribute and distribute free totes.

Other countries have long embraced such a ban, and I look forward to the day when I can boast that my own community has followed suit.

Sincerely,

Kara Tutunjian  
49 Dover St.  
Somerville, MA 02144



**From:** [Katie & Jason Brillantes](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of the Ban on Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Sunday, October 04, 2015 8:44:36 PM

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Dear Board of Aldermen:

I am writing to support the proposed ban on plastic bags in Somerville. I think this policy is aligned with the kind of progressive, environmentally friendly kind of city we want Somerville to be. Thank you for your efforts to make this happen.

Kind Regards,  
Katie Brillantes  
73 Avon Street  
Somerville, MA 02143  
617-308-0786

**From:** [Kim Jalet](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Ban on plastic bags  
**Date:** Sunday, October 04, 2015 4:32:32 PM

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Dear Mr. Long and the Somerville Board of Aldermen:

I am strongly in favor of a full ban on plastic bags being used in retail stores. I do not think the current proposal to replace regular bags with compostable plastic bags, which don't actually break down in landfills, goes far enough. I

It is easy enough to bring along reusable bags, and as a parent in Somerville, I want the city to do all we can to mitigate the environmental problems that Somerville will face in years to come. Please ban all plastic bags.

Sincerely,  
Kim Jalet  
29 Elston Street, Unit 2  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [kristinadanahy@gmail.com](mailto:kristinadanahy@gmail.com) on behalf of [Kristina Danahy](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban in Somerville  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 12:49:46 PM

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Hello,

I reside in Teele Square and am in favor of a plastic bag ban in retail stores.

thanks,  
KQD

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Kristina Danahy  
[kristina.danahy@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.danahy@gmail.com)  
617-858-0572  
@kqb

**From:** [Laura](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Sunday, October 04, 2015 2:14:15 AM

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Hi-

I support a full plastic bag ban in somerville. In order to make a difference we need to get rid of all plastic bags.

Thank you,  
Laura blanchard

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lucy Dagneau](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** I support the plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Sunday, October 04, 2015 10:15:30 AM

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Hi,

I live at 341 Highland Ave and I wanted say that I support a full ban on plastic bags. I lived in Washington DC about 6 years ago when they implemented one and it was hugely successful and did not cause much trouble to me at all as a city consumer.

I do not support the modified proposal to replace bags with compostable ones because those don't actually break down in landfills.A

Please ban plastic bags!

Thanks,  
Lucy Dagneau, Somerville resident

**From:** [Lucy Hahn](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the Plastic Bag Ban  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 3:44:38 PM

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Dear Mr. Long,

I am writing in support of the plastic bag ban. By banning plastic bags, we support the health of the wildlife in our communities, and we also reduce our reliance on petroleum-based products in a small but tangible and powerfully-symbolic way. I humbly ask that you advocate to enact the proposed measure, which fits perfectly with Somerville's image as a forward-thinking city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Lucy Hahn  
56 Walnut St., Apt. 1  
Somerville, MA 02143

**From:** [lmiratrix@gmail.com](mailto:lmiratrix@gmail.com) on behalf of [Luke Miratrix](#)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 10:00:31 PM

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Hello. I wanted to write in support of the plastic bag ban under consideration. I believe these steps are necessary for the environment, and I imagine they also have the happy effect of creating a less litter-filled world. Please record my support for this ban.

Sincerely,  
Luke Miratrix  
21 Vinal Ave  
Somerville, MA

Due to my RSI (wrist trouble), e-mail often abrupt <--  
[www.vzvz.org](http://www.vzvz.org) -\* - [luke@vzvz.org](mailto:luke@vzvz.org)

**From:** Patrick McCormick [mailto:[paddy@post.harvard.edu](mailto:paddy@post.harvard.edu)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 11:54 AM  
**To:** John Long  
**Subject:** support for ban on plastic bags

To the Board of Aldermen,

After six years living and working in Australia I've been back in Somerville for the last three years.

I'm writing in support of the proposed ban on plastic bags. I won't dwell on the social, economic, and environmental reasons why this is the right thing to do - I believe that the evidence is in ample supply. Our planet can no longer afford the negative externalities of a disposable consumer economy and we know too much to feign ignorance.

More practically speaking, the City of Melbourne, where I lived in Australia, implemented a ban on plastic bags within about a year of my move there so I experienced the transition required for residents and businesses to comply. People complained a lot at first. We all forgot to carry our own bags and had to pay for each paper bag we used in stores. Change is never easy. Like smoking bans in bars and restaurants, people and businesses eventually adjusted their habits and behaviors such that now one wonders what all the fuss was about. As with many social issues Somerville is well placed to lead on this important change. We care about our city and we care about our planet. We're also pretty good at making changes when the purpose and rewards are clear.

Thanks for your time and consideration,  
Pat McCormick.

PS - We also should consider banning plastic water bottles but maybe that's next.

Patrick McCormick  
41 Vinal Ave  
Somerville, MA 02143  
[paddy@post.harvard.edu](mailto:paddy@post.harvard.edu)



From: Rachel Massey [<mailto:massey12@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 4:48 PM  
To: John Long  
Subject: plastic bag ban

Dear Mr. Long:

I am writing to express my support for a Somerville ordinance to ban the provision of free plastic bags (including "biodegradable" bags) at points of sale.

I understand that Cambridge has recently adopted a similar ordinance, and I hope that Somerville will move forward on this important initiative.

Thank you,

Rachel Massey

894 Broadway, Apt. 2

Somerville, MA 02144

617-866-7104

**From:** Renee Scott <[reneescott@gmail.com](mailto:reneescott@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** September 28, 2015 at 1:24:13 PM EDT  
**To:** "Mary Jo. Rossetti" <[mjrossetti@somervillema.gov](mailto:mjrossetti@somervillema.gov)>  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban

Dear Mary Jo,

I am unable to attend Wednesday's plastic bag ban hearing but wanted to give my vote of support for a full ban.

Thank you.

Renée Scott

**From:** [teachmca@yahoo.com](mailto:teachmca@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [John Long](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, October 03, 2015 7:14:04 AM

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I am writing in support of banning all plastic bags in Somerville. This would be much better than replacing them with compostable bags that do not degrade in landfills.

Thank you, Tim McAndrew  
68 Ossipee Rd.