



10_12_18

Dear Mayor and Town Councilors,

On behalf of the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce I would like to submit some comments regarding the Plastic Bag Ordinance.

Having worked with Town Staff and a selection of local business (small, medium and large), our recommendation is to keep the focus of this ordinance on the intended outcome. Reducing single use plastic bags usage.

Data gathered supports an estimated 90-95% of single use plastic bags within our community are sourced from medium and large grocery stores. Given the nature of small business retail, there are multiple "other types of bags" being used in these environments and very small numbers of each kind. Retailers are often providing "reusable" bags from cloth to canvas to higher quality plastic. With a sample size of 8 businesses, (varied in size and type) we discovered 15 plus different types of bags being used in these alone. We also discovered most small business are only ordering bags between 6mnts-2yrs due to quantities.

Given this admittedly small but well researched group we recommend the following proactive and positive approach to this change:

1. Implement a single use plastic bag ban in grocery stores. (medium and large)
2. Require grocery stores that have the ban to charge for paper bags and leave the fee with the store collecting it. This will encourage 100% participation and leverage free commerce to manage the system instead of time consuming governance by town staff.
3. Allow and Encourage all other business to follow the new rule and self-regulate by giving them the option to remove single use and charge for paper (same fee, and they can collect and keep).
4. Encourage all businesses to remove all single use plastic bags from inventory within 24 months.

We believe that the complexity of implementing a ban on bags at the small business level has been proven with the group we met with. The complexity of types of bags, substantial difference in cost of paper varieties, ordering windows, different philosophy of bags and guests and management by private business of a system that would require investment in time and costs to maintain and similar for town, completely overshadow the agreed goal of removing single bag usage. We believe if we can change the culture locally on a broad scale then it will become inherent at the small retail level and people will change habits without requiring a law make change. It will also avoid the onerous task of managing this by town staff.

Jackson Hole is late to the table with this policy, many other towns, counties and countries have bans, our visitors will adjust quickly and probably have more respect for our community for having such sustainable practices in place, but we urge you to stick to common sense here and achieve the goal with minimum management required. Let business be

responsible for the education and change habits positively instead of the alternative overly complex and governed approach.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Olson". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Yours Sincerely," text.

Anna Olson

President/CEO Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce