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| **From:** | Mark Daniels |
| **To:** | Bowyer, Dale@Waterboards; Wolfe, Bruce@Waterboards |
| **Subject:** | FW: Agenda Item No. 7 - Implementation of the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit Trash Load Reduction Requirements |
| **Date:** | Tuesday, September 11, 2012 8:42:26 PM |

Dear Chairman Muller,

As an employee of Hilex Poly, an industry leading manufacturer and recycler of plastic bag and film products, I am writing to express concern over the proposed stormwater trash reduction policies that will be discussed during tomorrow's meeting. I understand that the policy could put cities and counties in a position to adopt bans plastic bags in order to meet goals to reduce trash loads from municipal separate storm sewer systems. Unfortunately, measures like these do little to reduce litter and put more than 30,800 American jobs at risk. As the Board continues to explore available options, I recommend that further emphasis be placed on increasing plastic bag recycling options and educational programs in order to preserve green jobs in the recycling industry and reduce environmental impacts.

Like you, our industry agrees that litter, in general, is a problem. But experience shows bag ordinances cripple green job growth while producing no benefits for the environment or consumers. My concern is that bag bans do not take into account that plastic bags are 100 percent recyclable, can contain recycled content (true closed-loop recycling) and can be reused for many household purposes as nine out of 10 Americans already do. Eliminating free plastic grocery bags forces consumers to search for alternatives such as paper or cloth bags. Both options weigh more and take more energy to produce, contributing to greater emissions, not less. Additionally, bag bans and taxes can impact local business revenue by drive frustrated customers to shop across city lines. Most importantly, implementing a bag ban would not address the issue of litter in a meaningful way. In fact, the City of San Francisco reported plastic bags to be only **0.6 percent** of litter before the City implemented a plastic bag ban. One year after the ban, plastic bag litter was actually reported to be **0.64 percent**.

It's for reasons like these that Hilex Poly is committed to working with lawmakers like yourself to develop comprehensive recycling programs that can have the most positive implications on our communities, the economy and the environment. Through our Bag-2-Bag program, we enable people to deposit their used plastic bags and wrap into bins at local retailers for recycling. In 2011 alone, Hilex recycled more than 35 million pounds of post-consumer plastic bags, sacks and wraps – keeping them out of landfills and out of the environment.

Recycling continues to be a growing trend in communities across the nation, and plastic bag recycling programs in particular are a proven success. According to the U.S. EPA's 2010 municipal solid waste study, the recycling rate of polyethylene bags, sacks and wraps was 14.7 percent, a 23.8 percent increase from the rate in 2009, and has grown in nine out of the last 10 years.

I hope this information was helpful in describing why recycling serves as the best solution to some of the environmental issues we are facing as a nation and why bag legislation is, simply put, bad public policy. I ask that you please consider the alternatives to anti-bag laws in order to preserve

consumer choice, small businesses, jobs and our industry. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the facts about plastic bags and the impacts of plastic bag legislation, please let me know; I am available to discuss this further with you at any time.

v/r

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