

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Comments on Docket #2020-R-WH-0025 (Plastic Bag Ban and Recycling)

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Organization:

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support the ban of single use point-of-sale plastic bags. While the proposal includes requirements for the collection of such bags by the retailer, the current reality is that there is no market or viable process for actually recycling these bags, or any significant plastic recycling taking place. Therefore the best approach to reducing plastic pollution is to eliminate, when possible, the source. Banning single use plastic bags accomplishes this. Plastic bags are also the number one impediment to current recycling efforts since they jam the sorting and transfer equipment, greatly reducing the efficiency of the recycling process. I reject the argument that reusable bags are unsanitary or spread disease. There is no more danger in taking a reusable bag into a store than that posed by unsterilized shoes, clothing, purses or backpacks. Reusable tote bags can be easily be washed and disinfected. European countries have lived without single-use point-of-sale plastic bags for decades now with no detriment to their economies. To those few who do reuse the bags for wastebasket liners or pet waste, there are suitable lightweight bags available in the marketplace at very low cost. The infinitesimal percentage of bags reused in this manner does not justify the flood of these noxious bags currently fouling our environment.