



Mayor
Scott Harden

Council President
Patricia Smith

Councilors
Bruce Nissen

John Miner

Representative Chris Gorsek
Representative Carla Piluso
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Plastic Bag Ban

The Honorable Representatives Gorsek and Piluso;

Thank you for asking about the status of plastic bag proposals in Wood Village. Our City Council has identified legislation to eliminate or regulate single use plastic bags as one of the most important things we can accomplish in this fiscal year. Among the dozens of ideas of what should be the most important priorities to achieve our community goals, the adoption of a ban or other regulation on single use plastic bags emerged as a key action.

We have chosen not to proceed with our local ordinance pending the outcome of actions proposed at the state level. If you do not act, we will.

It is our hope that a more uniform statewide system can be developed. In our meetings with local store managers, they expressed concern about how different laws in every town impact their business, and how our local code would be written. Will we require a fee for the provision of bags, will we eliminate the potential use of other single use plastics, will there be a phase in period, and dozens of other questions emerged. While we are prepared to answer all of these issues and proceed, our answers will probably not match those in the jurisdictions near us that are taking the same action. The result will be a patchwork of legislation among local governments that create confusion for the businesses and the citizens.

We urge the legislature to proceed with a uniform system to regulate plastic bags, establishing terms and how the transition will occur for all businesses. Your action will assist in averting some of the confusion that already exists as Kaiser, Eugene, Portland, Tigard, Newport, Manzanita, Corvallis, Forest Grove, Hood River, McMinnville, Milwaukee, Bend, Hillsboro, and other cities enact separate codes that make differing procedures for citizens and businesses. We understand there are 14 such communities now in place, all with somewhat different provisions.

We endorse the adoption of State legislation that will regulate plastic bags in a uniform manner throughout our state.

Sincerely;

T. Scott Harden
Mayor
City of Wood Village