

February 6, 2012

The Honorable David Chiu
President, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102



RE: Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance

Dear President Chiu,

On behalf of the California Grocers Association, I write to inform you of our comfort implementing the carryout bag ordinance attached to the February 7 Agenda. This ordinance incorporates all the necessary elements to maximize environmental gain, while providing consumers no-cost and low-cost carryout bag options and eliminating unnecessary financial and operational burdens to retailers.

The California Grocers Association is a non-profit, statewide trade association representing the food industry since 1898. CGA represents approximately 500 retail member companies operating over 6,000 food stores in California and Nevada, and approximately 300 grocery supplier companies. Retail membership includes chain and independent supermarkets, convenience stores and mass merchandisers. CGA members include a majority of supermarkets in San Francisco.

Numerous California jurisdictions have implemented or passed carryout bag regulations similar to the one before you. Ordinances that ban single-use plastic bags and allow recyclable paper bags for a charge have shown to dramatically encourage reusable bag use while providing consumers no-cost and low-cost carryout options and minimizing operational and financial impacts to retailers. Ordinances that do not regulate all single-use bag types, like the current San Francisco ordinance, do not maximize environmental gain and can cost each store well over \$50,000 a year in increased costs. California jurisdictions also using this regulatory model include the County of Los Angeles, the Cities of San Jose and Long Beach, and all 15 jurisdictions in Alameda County.

It is important to note California jurisdictions that have implemented similar ordinances have seen a dramatic shift by consumers towards bringing their own bags or using no bag at all. Approximately 75% of consumers use their own bag or take no bag when similar ordinances are initially implemented, as opposed to 25 % currently. Over a period of months we have seen an increase of consumers bringing their own bag or taking no bag at all by an additional 5% to 10%.

Thank you for consideration and please consider CGA a partner as you implement the ordinance.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY M. JAMES
Manager, Local Government Relations

cc: Members, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Mayor Edwin M. Lee, City of San Francisco
Ms. Melanie Nutter, Director, San Francisco Department of Environment