SAMPLE PETITION LANGUAGE FOR A BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS

*Use this language as a starting point for your petition to enact a Ban on Plastic Bags.*

*We recommend using an online petition so that you can easily reach more people through social media. There are many websites that host petitions for free such as Action Network, iPetition, and Change.org. These sites make it easy to create, share, and manage your petition.*

“We, the undersigned residents of [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION], support the passage of [REFERENCE BILL INFORMATION, INCLUDING NUMBER] – a Ban on Plastic Bags.

This bill requires businesses in [NAME OF LOCATION] to end the practice of providing plastic bags at points of sale and places a 5-cent fee on paper bags. If this bill became law it would encourage residents of [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION] to use reusable shopping bags and will significantly reduce plastic waste.

With 9 million metric tons of plastic entering the ocean each year, the world is facing a plastic pollution crisis. We all must do our part to end plastic pollution. Americans use 100 billion plastic bags per year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to produce. Every year, plastics add as much greenhouse gases to the atmosphere as 189 new coal plants.

Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, but can last for more than 500 years. Plastic bags are one of the top five most common plastic items found in beach cleanups worldwide and are the most commonly found synthetic item in the stomachs of sea turtles. Once they begin to break down, the smaller particles called “microplastics.” can make their way easily into the bodies of fish, including fish eaten by humans, and other marine life, with uncertain repercussions.

We call on the [NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] to enact a Ban on Plastic Bags in [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION].”