

**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: Graduate Student Government Sustainability Committee at the University of Delaware

Comments:

I support the spirit of the Delaware Plastic Bag ban, but the regulations need to be strengthened with small fees for paper bags. There also need to be fees for single-use plastic bags in instances when they are exempt regulations. A small fee of five cents or less per bag would be adequate. This will promote the use of reusable bags which are less detrimental to the environment than either single use paper or plastic bags. Here are pathways to two studies related to this concern: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6399129/>

[https://scaan.net/docs/ScaAN\\_Bags\\_report.pdf](https://scaan.net/docs/ScaAN_Bags_report.pdf) As for the sale of reusable plastic bags, as per the stance of the Delaware Nature Society, a minimum of 25% recycled resin should be required in these types of bags. Further, reusable bags sold by stores falling under these regulations should not only be washable but should be durable enough to ensure that each bag can be used enough times to generate an environmental return on investment. Here is the pathway for a study examining this issue:

<https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf> . Further, there was a remark during the October meeting that indicated that Wilmington (and logically other cities) can make changes to the law/regulations within the city limits. This needs clarification. I would recommend that any local-government level changes are only allowable when rules are made stricter than those of the State of Delaware. Finally, while fines for noncompliance are clearly stated in the laws and regulations, there also needs to be a clear outline of what the process will be used for ensuring ongoing compliance.