



SUPPORT

S. 7760/A. 9953 (Krueger/Englebright)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, the alcoholic beverage control law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing guidelines for carryout bag waste reduction.

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 7760/A. 9953 (Krueger/Englebright), which would ban plastic carryout bags and place a minimum 10-cent fee on all other types of carryout bags.

Plastic bags are not biodegradable and instead break down into smaller toxic petro-polymers that can contaminate soil and waterways. They kill animals who accidentally ingest them, especially birds and marine life, interrupt ecosystems, impose substantial costs on local sanitation departments and taxpayers, and can damage machinery at recycling facilities. Only about 12% of all film plastic is recycled, and there is an insufficient market for even this low amount of post-recycled material. Both plastic and paper carryout bags are carbon-intensive to produce, while the production of paper bags also contributes to deforestation.

S. 7760/A. 9953 would ban single-use plastic carryout bags and impose a minimum fee of 10 cents and for all other carryout bags, except for bags brought by the customer and bags used by restaurants and food for delivery or take-out; bags distributed by emergency food providers; bags used for produce, meat, and bulk food; and prescription bags at pharmacies. Stores would keep 20% of the fee while the State would receive 80%, which would go to the Environmental Protection Fund for pollution reduction, cleanup, and education, with priority given to low-income communities.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 7760/A. 9953.

Contact:
Patrick McClellan
(212) 361-6350 x 209
pmcclellan@nylcv.org

