



July 5, 2024

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2236 – Solid waste: reusable grocery bags: standards: plastic film prohibition –  
SUPPORT (As Amended June 20, 2024)**

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, we would like to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2236, which would end the use of thick plastic bags in grocery stores, but allows for the sale of genuinely reusable tote bags, and the continued use of paper bags.

In 2014, California passed the nation's first ban on plastic bags. SB 270 (Padilla) required all plastic bags used in grocery, convenience, and retail stores that include groceries, to be reusable. However, these "reusable" bags are often made of thicker plastic, specifically high-density polyethylene, which CalRecycle has recently determined to be "not recyclable".

Plastic bags of any kind pose significant environmental hazards. They clog drains, take centuries to decompose, and are nearly impossible to recycle. Furthermore, plastic bags contribute to the market for oil companies and generate toxic waste. In contrast, paper bags are compostable, recyclable, and produce significantly lower emissions.

To save the environment and reduce our waste, California must move away from its dependence on plastic. AB 2236 makes California's dream of eliminating plastic bags a reality. This legislation is a crucial step towards reducing our reliance on plastic and advancing California's environmental objectives.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 2236 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Priya Bhat-Patel'.

Priya Bhat-Patel  
Mayor Pro Tem

CC: Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38  
Grant Mack, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom