

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

November 16, 2010

**AMENDMENT to Item 41**

AB 1998 (Brownley) was the County-Supported Bill that would have banned single-use carryout bags across California. A ban of this kind should be done at a statewide level, but as we all know the measure failed in the Senate. AB 1998 had a very large coalition of supporters behind it, including Californians Against Waste, Heal the Bay and the California Grocers Association, which is why Los Angeles County has modeled our proposed ordinance after it.

There is one minor language change in the County's proposed that would outright exclude many locally owned manufacturing plants from producing reusable carryout bags. AB 1998 stated that bags be made from a material that can be cleaned and disinfected, but our ordinance mandates that they must be machine washable. Many local manufacturers want to be partners with the County to make reusable bags that are made from 100% recycled plastic and fit all the criteria in AB 1998 except being machine washable. There are many types of materials that can be used to manufacture reusable bags, and we should not limit their use because they are not machine washable. This ban has clear environmental benefits that cannot be ignored, but the policy should not exclude local manufacturers from producing reusable bags.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works and County Counsel to revise the definition of a "reusable bag" in the proposed ordinance to also include AB 1998's language that a reusable bag can be made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected ; thereby not excluding local manufacturers of reusable carryout bags. The reusable bag definition should allow for bags to be made from materials that are either machine washable or can be cleaned or disinfected.

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