

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

#	Name	Comment	Source
1	Sandy Charles	What you will hear from nearly everyone is that they are a perfect fit for the small trash baskets we all use in our bathrooms, bedrooms, offices, laundry rooms and patios. So let's find a way to cut the use by 90%. I have reusable bags for groceries like most of us, but use about 10 per month of the small plastic bags for small trash cans. How can we make this compromise?	Email
2	Janis Langford	I would like to oppose getting rid of single use bags. I use them again at times and I dispose of them properly. I am nearly 80 years old with significant back issues. With single use bags, I can limit how much is put in a bag so I can actually carry it in to my home. I cannot carry the much larger environment friendly bags.	Email
3	Cecile Hemez	I am writing in strong support of an ordinance limiting the use of single-use plastic bags in Los Alamos County.	Email
4	Patricia Archer	People who are going to use reusable bags are already doing it.	Cognito
5	Zandra Hall	I don't agree with limiting or charging for bags. How about every coffee, soda, water, soup, salad, etc. container? What about all the plastic containers in every store, business, and entertainment venue? Take out containers? Signs, tarps, chairs, flyers, take home containers, etc.? The problem certainly is not limited to a grocery bags.	Email
6	John Budzien	I am a Los Alamos resident of voting age. I oppose any restrictions to the use and/or availability of single use plastic bags. No more government overreach.	Email
7	Jess Taylor	Good morning! I read about the proposed single use plastic ban for los alamos County and want to register my support for this initiative! It's overdue that we address introducing ANY new plastic. In our company our eco team tried a challenge to do a full grocery shop without buying anything wrapped in plastic and it was impossible. Yet, this is what's necessary to reverse the damage plastic introduces into our environment. This step to reduce single use plastic bags will be an important one to signal to commercial entities that the public has long- term concerns that deserve to be addressed responsibly.	Email
8	Lisa Peterson	I am not able to attend the upcoming meeting to discuss a potential ban on plastic bags. I reject the idea of a ban. I reuse the plastic bags I receive. Most people reuse these bags to pick up pet waste, line trash bins, or hold wet items. A ban would just be an unnecessary pain for residents. Let us decide for ourselves if we want to use plastic bags or not. We like our freedom to choose. Thank you for your attention to this matter.	Email
9	Teresa Roberts	Greetings, I lived in White Rock. For the past several years I have been reducing my use of 'single use plastic items.' I bring my own bags to the grocery store and get 'bag credits.' I use Stasher Bags instead of plastic wrap and plastic bags (https://www.stasherbag.com/). I have a solar power grid on the roof of my house. I drive hybrid vehicles. All of these efforts reduce my carbon footprint on our earth. Your proposed plastic bag ban is OK with me.	Email
10	Daniel Varley	I am not in favor of doing away with single use bags. To us, these bags are never single use unless they arrive home ripped. First examples that come to mind: we fill them with poop from two medium dogs every week; we use them as trash bags when camping; and they are used to package chicken or turkey carcasses before going into the trash. I looked and discovered that I can buy these bags on Amazon the last time this idea was championed before the Council, and we will buy them before this ban goes into effect if things get to that point. The person who does most of our shopping already keeps reusable bags in her car yet occasionally she buys more than they can hold and single use bags come in handy. I rarely do grocery shopping. I don't use a bag when I buy one or two items as I have two hands. Because I seldom keep a reusable bag in my car and wouldn't remember to bring it in anyway, three items or more would be an inconvenience akin to shopping at Sam's Club which I more frequently do. Bottom line is I seldom see these bags in the environment. I'm not sure what problem someone is trying to solve. Banning "single use" bags is nothing but an inconvenience and someone else's windmill.	Email
11	Richard Honsinger	I urge the council to pass the plastic bag ban ordinance.	Email
12	Greg Weiss	This is an example of bad government. Many of these "single use" bags are re-used for other purposes. Residents will then purchase single-use plastic bags which are larger and thicker than the bags this ordinance will eliminate. The Net effect will be an equal amount of plastic in our waste stream. This proposal should be rejected completely.	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

13	Valerie Fox	Please do not ban plastic bags. I personally use them for small can, trash bags and other uses as well. Many people re-use these bags in similar fashion. Banning their use means we will instead be purchasing boxed trash bags that contain more plastic (because they are bigger) and will only be used once. You won't be saving the planet with this stupid proposal. Please reconsider. Thank you.	Email
14	Karen Wray	I am disappointed to see that the County is being pushed AGAIN into another potential "single-use" plastic bag ban. We reuse those bags in our painting and drawing classes ALL THE TIME and if this ban is approved, I would need to purchase plastic garbage bags for our use. That would create a single-use bag problem in the County since most everyone reuses those bags for a wide variety of purposes including pet waste, small garbage bags at home and at work, for travel, for carrying paperwork, snacks, carrying extra shoes, etc. I would like to see the County focusing on other more important issues.	Email
15	Grace	Good afternoon, I would like to share comments on the proposed ordinance. Under the definition for a Retail Establishment, is it meant to say "food or good delivery service provider"? I believe it should say "food" not "good." Under the definition of Owner, is it meant to say "assigns?" The word "assignee" may be better. The definition for Reusable Carryout Bag seems very prescriptive. Are there other materials that could be used that are not included in this list? I would reconsider how this is written. Under section 4, I feel it would be clearer to state "at the point of sale or goods transfer" or something similar. Section 5: The use of "are encouraged" rather than "may" evokes a feeling that the County wants consumers to be charged, like the County favors businesses over residents. Section 5: What limitations are there on the cost of the fee? Will the County allow \$2 and \$3 bag fees? There should be a ceiling on what is permissible. Considering this a HCOL area, if the decision is left to businesses, they might overcharge simply because they can. Section 7.(a).4: "or imprisonment" - this penalty is harsher than what was proposed in House Bill 392. If some flavor of HB392 gets reintroduced to the floor, will this clause create heartburn?	Email
16	Forrest Lanier	A ban on only plastic bags is not only performative, it's also typically worse environmentally. Reusable bags are great in theory, but the carbon offset to make them equated to having to use them 200 times to offset the manufacture as compared to making 200 single use bags. Also, the vast majority of packaging in stores is single use plastic. It's beyond stupid to buy meat, cheese, and frozen dinners all encased in single use packaging, but then it can't be enclosed in a bag that's single use. Do you want to encourage reuse? then subsidize reusable bags. When I lived in Germany they were typically 20 to 50 cents and honestly I bought a lot of them because they were good quality and usually had neat scenes on them, I'm honestly sad my main used one's are finally ripping out almost 7 years later. Are you more worried about littering? Then propose more trashcans, higher fines, or more compliance officers. Bags aren't the problems, people's habits are. Basically, get serious if you actually want to help, or just leave it alone. This performative stuff doesn't help anyone or the environment and is a net loss for everyone other than someone needing a meaningless bullet point in their next re-election flyer.	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

		When I saw that Las Cruces had a plastic bag ordinance, I emailed my sister who lives there and who is no activist but keeps up on current affairs. Here is her response, FYI. Her name is Peggy.	
		Well, it seems to be working and most people/businesses seem to be abiding and doing their due diligence. So far the only businesses I'm aware of that still use plastic are Domino's and Pastaggio's. I usually save them to be used for cleaning cat boxes, etc., and giving them to my neighbor who sells at the Farmer' Market. Like you, I collect them on my walks and use them if they're usable. And when I do get around to throwing them away, I cut the handles so nothing gets stuck in them and generally cut them in pieces. Also, it seems, I've been told, that some businesses use more biodegradable plastic where it's already starting to fall apart in the sun before you can even get it into the car. All in all, the ruling works well and people are willing. There's a whole lot less NM state flags flapping in the wind stuck in mesquite bushes. So I hope LA gives it a try.	
17	G Strickfaden	I'm in favor of giving it a try, too.	Email
18	Zena Thomas	I would prefer that we continue the use of plastic bags.	Email
19		Not this topic again. There's a bunch of studies. I don't know what angle you're aiming for so I'm not going to assume and send random papers. Yet.	Facebook
20		Including this one. Plastic grocery bags make up 2% of litter in NM. So we are talking about plastic bags in LA which will be a very small fraction of the overall 2% being that many municipalities in NM don't ban them.	Facebook
21		Is there not anything more important for them to put their attention toward? I reuse my bags.	Facebook
22		I reuse the bags, they are not single use. There is plenty more important things that this county could be addressing.	Facebook
23		We're doing this again? Why?	Facebook
24		Because the council is bored and feels like they need to mess up more shit	Facebook
25		They are not single use, you just call them that to further your agenda. Quit playing word games.	Facebook
26		I reuse my plastic bags - not sure what I'd do without them. Why don't we focus maybe on finding alternative biodegradable or compostable bags rather than banning them. Plastic bags are very useful in certain situations!	Facebook
27		Because trying in 2015 and 2019 wasn't enough? Give it a rest already.	Facebook
28		I absolutely reuse those bags for many things so...they are not at all single use.	Facebook
29		What will I do with the cat poo??	Facebook
30		I have an idea who you could send it to...	Facebook
31		I use the vegetable bags in produce aisle. Those aren't going away.	Facebook
32		It's done nothing for Santa Fe. In San Diego (actually next to the ocean), their stores all still use single use plastic bags. Only the zoos use paper bags and paper straws.	Facebook
33		They are banned in HI.	Facebook
34		And San Diego.	Facebook
35		Take away our right to choose, are these the same folks that blocked off the hiking trails during covid. Whose the authoritarians here?	Facebook
36		Eliminate not reduce. Get rid of the single use plastic in the county.	Facebook
37		If you only use them once, *you're* the moron in the equation, and you should feel embarrassed about that.	Facebook
38		I strongly support reusable bags	Facebook
39		I don't think anyone has a problem with reusable bags and nobody is planning on telling us we can't provide them in our markets.	Facebook
40		We should follow Santa Fe's plastic bag policy, 10 cents a bag. Folks really need to think more about the enormous amounts of plastic going into our landfills and oceans.	Facebook
41		10 cents per bag is essentially a government imposed fine for non-compliance	Facebook
42		Maybe "3rd time's the charm"...that they'll get the message that's been sent twice already!! What a waste of time and energy!	Facebook
43		This again?	Facebook
44		I use them for small trash cans. If they're taken away, I'd just have to buy plastic bags. It makes no difference to take them away. Plus they use such little amount of plastic. Paper bags use more materials and have a bigger carbon footprint.	Facebook
45		100%. Paper bags are way worse for the environment.	Facebook

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

46	The main finding of this review process was that the single-use plastic grocery bag (usually made out of HDPE) should not be totally excluded or banned, since it can be the most environmentally friendly option in almost all the evaluated scenarios compared to different material families such as paper, cotton, or other polymers such as bio-based or oxo-degradable when used only once, having about 50% of the environmental impact (climate change) of the other alternatives mentioned above. However, when the reuse option is taken into account, plastic bags that withstand multiple use, have the tendency to have less impact on the environment, contributing to approximately 60% less than a single-use paper bag (climate change environmental impact). As for the case of waste single-use bags, a biodegradable alternative might be the most environmental and viable alternative in cases where organic waste sorting and collection becomes generalised.	Facebook
47	I use my own canvas or nylon shopping bags - except for delivery or pick-up orders. And none of those get thrown away. I give a lot of my bags to my parents in Colorado - because they aren't able to get bags anymore to reuse.	Facebook
48	Strong support for reusable bags. Also they should charge 10 cents at the grocery store for a bag.	Facebook
49	The answer is no.	Facebook
50	Does our county really have nothing better to do with its time? If not I can think of a few things about lac that piss me off more than the plastic bags we use way more than 1x. Can we please find something else to worry about. Our power is about to go through the roof in lac and instead of finding time to worry how to reduce THOSE charges you're gonna push for something we've said no to 2x already.	Facebook
51	I use them for so so much, they're not at all single-use in most homes.	Facebook
52	Can we do "send pedophiles to prison" instead? Seems to be a bigger problem in LA than plastic bags. Just saying...	Facebook
53	How about the Board and Council leaving people the hell alone to live their own lives? We don't need any more government interference and regulation. Enough of the virtue signaling already.	Facebook
54	Don't you have more important stuff to deal with	Facebook
55	I reuse mine. Don't be ignorant enough to ban them.	Facebook
56	Affordable housing	Facebook
57	affordable utilities	Facebook
58	Recycling this rubbish again. Waste of time.	Facebook
59	You all got better things to worry about than plastic bags.	Facebook
60	They've been banned in Santa Fe-not worth it-most people use them multiple times-and if I forget my tote bags, by the time I double bag paper bags to keep them from breaking-I question the environmental balance of either type.	Facebook
61	The New Mexico State Bird is the plastic bag. I support this.	Facebook
62	This again	Facebook
63	I strongly support following Europe's lead - a hefty surcharge for every single plastic bag. You will be amazed at the number of plastic bags people decide they don't "really" need. Stop plastic pollution.	Facebook
64	I'm sure there are more important issues to work on than worry about plastic bags.	Facebook
65	I reuse plastic bags too. Litter box cleaning & yard patrol for dog poop.	Facebook
66	Single use? The homeless use them multiple times until they literally disintegrate (the bag, not the homeless)	Facebook
67	Hasn't this been brought to a vote & shot down twice?	Facebook
68	No!!!!	Facebook
69	I have a cat. Not having plastic store bags will just force me to buy them. Hardly a win for anyone.	Facebook
70	They're cheap. About 3 cents each when you buy in small quantities like 1000. That'll last me a few years, and I'm 100% for sure going to buy them if this ban goes through. The ban would regulate the market, not the customer.	Facebook
71	Purchased boxes of bags are the definition of single use bags. When I bring my purchases home from the store and then use them to line a wastebasket, take cookies to a neighbor, or clean out the car box, they are double use.	Facebook
72	I'd say about half the bags we bring home from the market get reused. We have a stockpile of them, but when that bag holder thing is full, they get tossed. I'll typically use one from the storage thing to bring a couple of cans of diet Dew to the office nearly every day. Should the day come I buy a box of bags, they'll get stored in the car for buying groceries, and will either be jammed in the bag storage thing at home for a 2nd use, or right in the trash as we do it today.	Facebook
73	I use the vegetable/produce bags for kitty litter. Those will still be there. You can use those.	Facebook
74	I'd much rather they'd consider banning single use plastic water bottles.	Facebook
75	I agree. Single use plastic water bottles are a much greater concern.	Facebook
76	So to which councilors doorstep shall I hand-carry my cat's shit?	Facebook

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

77		I think at this point, the more efficient use of county time would be introducing an expedited process to manage their next inevitable step to process contempt of county with kangaroo court procedures so that those of us with the slightest shred of common sense may more quickly be dealt with, and sent to the gulag that never appears in a budget meeting. Bring as many bags as you can smuggle in. They'll be currency inside, and likely used *many* times over.	Facebook
78		They do this yearly. Single use bags are not single use! Trash, giving things away, portable carryalls.	Facebook
79		I never throw the so-called "single use" bags away. They have a multitude of uses. I have a stockpile of them in the event the county will try (again) to ban them. It's hard to believe there aren't more critical issues that "need" to be addressed.	Facebook
80		So wait...I buy bread in a plastic bag, deli meat in a plastic bag, cheese in a plastic bag, mayo and mustard in plastic bottles...but bringing it all home in a plastic bag...this is where we draw the line?	Facebook
81		This!!! At least we reuse our grocery bags.	Facebook
82		I reuse my bags for a multitude of things.	Facebook
83		Common sense has left the building. Why don't we just eliminate everything else? According to fifty percent of the population, everything is bad for you.	Facebook
84		When Santa Fe banned 'single use' plastic bags, I went to Sam's and bought a box of them. They are my Santa Fe shopping bags. They fold up nicely in my handbag and I just pull out however many I need for my purchase and hand them to the clerk. I reuse them as trash can liners and, when we had a cat, for cleaning the litter box. Much cheaper than ten cents a bag. That one box is still over half full. There's more than one way to solve a problem.	Facebook
85		This is so much more important than all the empty commercial buildings just sitting around decaying. Why not try to find businesses to occupy those empty, decaying buildings based on the metrics of income, population, and education? The council is finding busy work for the county again.	Facebook
86		Just stop with this...we've already stated our opinions and we don't want a ban on the single use plastic bags! Please focus on other and far more important issues facing our county...power outages, medical care issues, safer traffic conditions during rush hour and better new housing availability.	Facebook
87		How about a plastic bag surcharge that goes to the Clean Up Los Alamos Day volunteer breakfast burrito fund? Asking for a friend	Facebook
88		You run into issues with the state anti-donation clause. Which is one of the reasons this was defeated in 2015. This is the third time this issue has been brought forth. It's intrusive and a waste of the CC's time to keep resurrecting it. If ppl want to use cloth or reusable bags, they can and should, but mind your business. People reuse these bags and want their options.	Facebook
89		See where else this has been tried and does not achieve the results it claims it will.	Facebook
90		Here we go again.	Facebook
91		Stupid thought, just make them biodegradeable.	Facebook
92		I thought the current year was 2026, not 2015.	Facebook
93		Sheesh, go ahead, keep turning Los Alamos into Santa Fe. Make it even harder for LANL to hire and keep people.	Facebook
94		Bags end up in the pond. Every day	Facebook
95		Before my store opened, I delved into the world of what is best environmentally and practically. Paper bags tear more (particularly for heavy goods like pet food cans) and they are heavier to transport. So, in analysis I looked at, the paper bags took less gasoline to transport them to their retail destinations because, for example, 500 paper bags are heavier than 500 plastic bags, but that is often ignored in the analysis. Happy to do whatever the County requires (we encourage reusable bags and, for a decade even gave a discount for doing so), but the analysis of what is better for the environment can be debatable. In the end, I settled on well-made (expensive for me) plastic bags that are reusable. So, I guess I would want a clearer definition of single-use than what is in the draft ordinance, especially since potential jail time is involved. Who goes to jail, by the way? The owner of the business? What happens in franchises? The manager? The employees giving them out?	Facebook
96		No! Although I use reusable bags often, I still use and reuse plastic bags for small tasks around the house and for cat litter boxes. I'd be okay with paying a small fee to purchase them at checkout IF the money goes to something useful to the CITIZENS of LA county and NOT for something only the COUNTY wants.	Facebook
97		Here you go again!	Facebook
98	Geoff Reeves	I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance "BANNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND ENCOURAGING RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS TO CHARGE A FEE FOR RECYCLED CONTENT PAPER CARRYOUT BAGS." I have read the entire ordinance and agree that single use plastic bags are a problem in a number of ways. Banning them is really the only solution and there are plenty of other options for shoppers including those mentioned in the ordinance. The exceptions to the ban are also reasonable. I have been a Los Alamos resident for over 35 years and I am registered to vote in Los Alamos.	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

99	Lisa Shin	Dear Council: It is hard to keep up with all the ways you are increasing the cost of living for middle-class residents & those on a fixed income. Recycled bags & paper boxes raise expenses for our businesses and increase the grocery bill. In Santa Fe, there is a 10 cent option to purchase plastic bags, but now you want to eliminate them altogether. Now you want to force businesses to raise costs for their customers? By doing away with plastic bags at checkout, shoppers will simply purchase them on the shelf, which is also more expensive and does not achieve your goal of reducing plastic bags. Furthermore, this ordinance will encourage more online shopping, which harms our local economy.	Email
100	Sarah Frogget	Please do not implement this ordinance. This is, I believe, the third time this ordinance has come up. The citizens have spoken on this issue multiple times and this ordinance has not passed in the past. Why is it coming up again? In my house, there is no such thing as a single-use plastic bag. We use them for lots of things including small garbage can liners that last for weeks, "luggage" for car trips, insulation, garbage bags, etc. If you want to have an impact on plastic waste, start with product packaging. I don't have a researched number, but I bet 95% of the plastic that comes home from the grocery store is product packaging, not the bags it comes home in, and that's just one example. Let people make their own choices. If someone wants to use reusable bags, let them. If someone wants a paper bag, let them have one. If there are customers who want a plastic bag, good gosh - let it be. I do think we still use too much plastic and too much of it ends up in landfills. But banning plastic bags, which are arguably more sanitary and easier to use, does not make a big enough impact on plastic waste to have this be an issue for Los Alamos county AGAIN. Spend this energy on amping up plastic recycling in the county. Figure out a way to let us recycle all plastic waste. Have recycle bins downtown with clear signage on what can and can't be recycled. Give tax breaks to citizens who meet a certain weight of recycling per year. Do something besides inconveniencing citizens for little impact. And please stop trying to force this issue.	Email
101	Robert Dryja	The Smiths Grocery provides plastic bags conveniently located at its sales check out counters. It also has disposal barrels at the entry/exit doorways. The county may need to design an ordinance so that other businesses can easily distribute and retrieve their kind of plastic bags similar to Smiths.	Email
102	Alan Kaplan	I feel that ALL plastic bags should be banned including "reusable" as we all know those are a loophole to get around single use.	Cognito
103	Robert Lowrie	Please ban single-use plastic bags, or at least, charge for them and use the proceeds for litter mitigation.	Cognito
104	Casaundra Kaplan	As a CA transplant, when this was voted in a handful of years ago, I witnessed grocery stores coming up with work arounds such as having thicker plastic bags that they were able to still use as long as they charged \$.15 for them. I'd prefer to have a no plastic bag measure so that people have to bring their own bags, use a cardboard box from the store or make the stores offer paper bags as has been done in other countries for over a decade now.	Cognito
105	Brianna Day	Great idea!	Cognito
106	Lisa Andreatta	The ban of single use plastic bags is unquestionably overdue. We are an educated community with a high median income. What logical reason is there keep the use? Selfishness, entitlement, and laziness at the only reasons I've witnessed. We need to participate in the reduction of single bag use.	Cognito
107		Please don't do this. Get more bear carts distributed and work to keep the bears and crows out of dumpsters	Cognito

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

108	Wish to remain Anonymous	I believe it's better to encourage good behavior especially by making it convenient rather than forcing it through punitive regulation. You strip people of the freedom to make a positive choice creating resentment toward the local government for being overbearing. Constantly buying expensive re-use bags at the stores places a burden on those of us of lower incomes. I've seen the bags range from \$3-\$5 ea. They aren't any cheaper online. And yes this is a significant amount of money to me. In my experience, most re-usable bags last about a year before they fall apart and become landfill items themselves. They are made of plastics that are difficult to recycle again and are a waste stream themselves. So they don't solve the problem, they only slightly lessen it, maybe. I think the store bags are a very small percentage of the one-time use plastics coming into the county and just a high visibility target for feel good but don't do much points. Sadly, most food items come packaged in excessive amounts of not really recycled material. And yes, I am aware that most plastics do not get actually get recycled by the recyclers, but instead end up in landfills or incinerated. What we need is the one big store in town to provide biodegradable or fully recyclable bags. I don't think the few small biz. that are barely holding on that don't have an exception need to be penalized with fines. I think if you do go the bag ban route we limit it to stores with over some threshold number of customers/day and you provide best option type bags for residents and visitors for free. I believe instead the county should offer all residents 6-8 re-usable bags a year. The bags could be printed with the county logo and have space for sponsored local business logos to offset the cost of the bags. The bags should be available at the visitor center and museums as well for tourist. I am concerned that this will just be the beginning of these green regulations. If such a small target such as a few hundred bags being handed out by small stores is enough to trigger punitive regulation, where does it end? Do we begin to regulate which vehicles can be driven in the county? Are non-green products like charcoal bricks and lighter fluid also subject to a ban? Do we eventually ban non-electric vehicles and appliances? This is why I don't like ban regulations for things that aren't immediate or direct life threatening issues. It's a slippery slope and doesn't really solve the problem. As a person who grew up in a literal toxic waste dump city (not Los Alamos) I am quite sensitive and educated about pollution and waste. But, I have also seen how not very well thought out regulation hits the wrong people hard and is difficult to undo. I don't think the current ordinance as written is fair to small biz. with few customers and puts an additional cost burden on people with low incomes. Regulations should be used sparingly and validated to have a high impact on the right problem before being implemented. They should not be	Cognito
109		Instead of putting the responsibility on the retail business, of providing a way to carry purchases from the store, it should be provided by those wanting to put this ordinance in place, give the stores paper bags, boxes and reusable bags, small businesses can't afford another ordinance.	Cognito
110	Peter McNiff	There is far more problems for the county to deal with and this issue has come up previously and the citizenry did not want the county to ban plastic bags. We use the plastic bags for multiple uses at our house from waste baskets, cleaning cat litter boxes etc. We are definitely against retail establishments gaining extra income by charging for bags to shop. This is a "county feel good issue" and citizens are just going to have to purchase other plastic bags (Glad bags etc) again enriching the retailer.	Cognito
111		I don't see a clear exception for the sale of bags to pick up and dispose of dog waste, nor do I see a clear exception for the sale of food storage bags.	Cognito
112	Stephen Blair	I strongly support Los Alamos County's proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance, to address the concerns identified in the draft Ordinance, but also to adapt to a changing world and place Los Alamos County among more forward-thinking and environmentally responsible communities in the United States. The need for Ordinances such as that proposed is real. As are many of the concerns that undoubtedly will be raised. But most if not all likely objections to the Ordinance can be addressed, through mechanisms such as ensuring broad distribution of Reusable Carryout Bags and availability of Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bags. Other communities have successfully implemented bans on single use plastic bags. The objection that reducing an individual's use of plastic bags makes no difference to overall environmental concerns is false - the relevant question is what is the impact when a larger number of individuals collectively modify their behavior. Similarly, the objection that the County has more important concerns to address and so why waste time on banning plastic bags is simply misdirection and an attempt to complicate the County's attempts to address the wide range of issues that do exist and should be addressed. The proposed Ordinance can serve as an educational tool, highlight the need for all of us to change our behaviors, and help build a shared understanding that will be needed when addressing larger issues, such reducing water usage and moving toward greater electrification of homes and vehicles. I urge the County to consider and address legitimate concerns raised in this request for comments, adopt a strong and meaningful Plastic Bag Ordinance, monitor implementation of any such Ordinance for legitimate concerns, and continue to provide a mechanism for feedback from the broader community. Thank you for considering my comments and providing an opportunity for County residents to provide feedback on the proposed Ordinance.	Cognito
113	Barbara Blair	I support the single-use plastic bag ban. My biggest gripe concerning the bags is the litter aspect. I walk/hike a lot and am tired of seeing and picking up the bags. I think at this point in time most people have reusable bags and are use to using them. For those that aren't, I don't believe it will be a great inconvenience to make the change to reusable bags. Thank you.	Cognito

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

114	Barbara Calef	I am very pleased the Council is once again considering passing an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags. I hope it will pass this time. I would recommend that the County impose a fee on bags provided to customers rather than leave it up to the business in order to further encourage customers to provide their own bags. The payment should be retained by the business.	Cognito
115	Richard Sayre	I strongly support a complete ban on plastic bags. They are a scourge on wildlife and contribute substantially to global microplastic environmental contamination and thus represent a considerable long-term health risk.	Cognito
116	Jody Benson	Of course I support limiting the single-use plastic shopping bag even to the point of banning it. Thank you, ESB, for developing an ordinance. And to the Council--please do not reject the ordinance because of public disapproval of some aspects of it. If people react to a government interference with personal freedom, please work with Smiths to simply charge for each single-use plastic shopping bag. Shoppers can have a bag; it will just become a commodity. Shoppers are free to purchase it. I'm attaching a very partial history of the Sierra Club's, the League of Women Voters, and the community's efforts starting in 2015. I included some letters in opposition. Also attached is the 2015 summary of efforts from the LWV: This is from the LWVLA report to the LWVNM Board for July, 2015. For well over a year we worked with the Sierra Club to achieve a ban or fee on single use plastic bags (and paper) in Los Alamos. We succeeded in convincing the County Council to direct the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) to hold two public meetings to discuss the issue and to return to Council with options for reducing the distribution of single use bags in the County. It turned out that there was extremely strong opposition to any action. A well-organized and vocal group invoking freedom and threatening lawsuits fought us at every step. Strangely, while sneering that the matter was too unimportant to consider, they devoted hundreds of hours to fighting it. We did not give up, but have succeeded only in getting the ESB to pass a motion asking the Council to act to educate and encourage citizens to reduce consumption of natural resources, including plastic bags. https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-lets-ban-single-use-plastic-bags/ Opposition from Joyce Anderson https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-keep-plastic-bags-in-los-alamos/ https://ladailypost.com/los-alamos-republican-party-meets-jan-15/ (The discussion with the GOP-LA was not well-received even though Chair Robert Gibson now leads on net-zero carbon in the community. He was able to change his mind. https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-on-banning-plastic-bags/ https://ladailypost.com/benson-be-a-hero/ https://ladailypost.com/letter-to-the-editor-ban-plastic-bags-in-los-alamos/ (This article tells the fate of the 2015 petition. The photos don't match the story.) https://ladailypost.com/council-sends-plastic-bag-issue-to-environmental-sustainability-board-for-further-	Cognito
117	Dawn cline	OMG I just read the pdf and it is worse than other violations in Los Alamos. Jail time and fees for using a re-usable bag? Is there going to be a group of people that go around to see what bags we are using? Is this going to be a paid committee to look for "violations" and who will be paying them? Are you going to come to all of stores and determine they rules are met? Are you going to force us to "buy new bags" from a vendor of the county's choice at some ridicules amount? How and who will be going to determine the price and then how to we tax them and it this going to be considered "sales income"? What about non-profits, how would I charge them "if" they wanted a plastic bag? What about the items that get shipped to me? Is that going to be a "violation"? I think Styrofoam take-out containers are worse when all of older people re-use these so much in our houses? Think of all the BIGGER TRASH bags that everyone is going to start to use instead and will not be filled to the max. I understand the reason on using these bags less, but it involves more knowledgeable in writing of this LAW. In my store, people ask for a bag after they pay, so then how would I charge them again when they want to use a credit card. How can you prove which bag came from what store, if you are going to after them? There is a lot more critical information needed than a 3-sheet Law. You can call me to if you want, because I have a lot of questions and concerns?	Cognito

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

118	Andrew Wall	I strongly oppose the proposed ordinance banning single-use plastic carryout bags. While protecting our environment is an important goal, this ordinance is a poorly conceived solution that places additional burdens on residents and local businesses while providing little evidence that it will meaningfully improve environmental outcomes in Los Alamos County. The ordinance repeatedly asserts that plastic bags are a significant contributor to local litter, recycling costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and public health concerns. Yet nowhere does it provide county-specific data demonstrating that single-use plastic bags constitute a substantial portion of our local waste stream or that they are responsible for measurable environmental harm within Los Alamos County. Public policy should be based on objective evidence, not generalized claims or assumptions imported from jurisdictions with vastly different populations, infrastructure, and waste management challenges. Los Alamos is not a densely populated coastal community struggling with plastic pollution washing into the ocean. It is a community with a highly educated population, excellent waste management services, and relatively low levels of litter compared to major metropolitan areas. Before imposing new regulations on every resident and business, the County should first demonstrate that a significant local problem actually exists. The ordinance also ignores the growing body of research showing that reusable bags are not automatically better for the environment. Numerous life-cycle analyses have found that reusable bags must be used many dozens—or even hundreds—of times before offsetting the environmental costs associated with their manufacture. Many reusable bags are made from thicker plastics or imported materials that require substantially more energy and raw materials to produce than lightweight plastic bags. If consumers forget their reusable bags and repeatedly purchase new ones, the overall environmental impact may actually increase rather than decrease. Equally concerning is the economic burden this ordinance places on local retailers. Small businesses will bear the cost of sourcing more expensive paper bags or reusable bags while also modifying their operations to comply with a new regulatory requirement. Although the ordinance merely "encourages" retailers to charge customers for paper bags, the practical effect is to increase costs either for businesses or consumers during a period when families are already struggling with inflation and rising living expenses. The enforcement provisions are particularly troubling. The proposal authorizes criminal penalties—including misdemeanor convictions, fines up to \$500, and even jail time—for businesses that violate the ordinance.	Cognito
119	Aimee Price	Please ban the use of plastic bags! It's one small step we can do to help reduce waste in our county.	Cognito
120	stephen price	Yes please! Would love to see a plastic bag ban!	Cognito
121	Didier Saumon	I'm in favor of this ordinance. Loose plastics bags carried by the wind are an eyesore and a danger to animals that may eat them or get entangled. Are 'Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bags' biodegradable (besides being recyclable)?	Cognito
122	Camille Wescott	I support the plastic bag ordinance. Natural Grocers has successfully implemented a similar policy. Other retailers should be able to do the same, to support improving our climate. Plastic bags are a nuisance!	Cognito
123	Suzanne Nowicki	While it is great to finally see a ban on single-use plastic bags, other single-use plastics and polystyrene (Styrofoam) remain a major issue. Our local ordinance should expand to include plastic containers, cups, utensils, and Styrofoam. Too many restaurants still rely on these harmful materials. To protect our community and wildlife, businesses should be required to switch to environmentally friendly, biodegradable takeout items instead. Thank you for your time and for pushing for a cleaner environment.	Cognito
124	Alexei Klimenko	I fully support the ordinance. It's about time that LA county joins many other municipalities in NM with such ban.	Cognito
125	Amelie Schwendt	Eliminate the usage of plastic bags all together. We have to save the planet	Cognito
126	Kelly Myers	Ban plastic grocery bags!!	Cognito
127		This is a non starter... there's good reason Albuquerque backtracked from paper bags within a very short time. Nobody likes their soup cans or other groceries ripping and spilling walking out of the stores. The paper bags are much larger volume (for stack of 100 etc), flimsy, flammable. This is not good for a fire danger area... more paper in household, dumpster, landfills is not ideal. Also, the plastic bags are recycled and reused... as lunch bags, laundry on travel, camping, garbage bags, many uses. Last, Los Alamos small businesses also face WAY more than enough hurdles with gross receipts tax, high labor costs to compete with LAnI for limited employees. Many small businesses fail yearly in this city. Making them buy certain bags is ridiculous. In a free county, the folks wishing for paper bags use those, those wanting reusable thick plastic or cloth bags use those, and fans of plastic bags or other types do that also. :)	Cognito
128	Paul Daly	I am in strong support of the single-use plastic carryout bag ban.	Cognito
129	Linda Daly	I am in favor of the single use plastic bag ban. Most people that I know are already doing this. So, so many communities around THE WORLD have already adopted a similar ordinance/or ban. More importantly, our environment needs this. Minimal inconvenience for a really big impact.	Cognito
130	Marilyn	Please stop the use of single use bags	Cognito

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

131	Jessica Anderson	I vote against the plastic bag ban. Our household reuses the bags we receive many times over for a variety of uses and the bag ban would force extra unnecessary expenses on our household to come up with more expensive alternatives.	Cognito
132	Theresa Wilson	I think banning one use plastic bags in this county is long overdue. I'm sure most of us have been in the habit of bring our own bags when shopping. There are plenty of exceptions in the proposed ordinance that should keep most happy. I am fully in agreement that we should ban those flimsy plastic bags that end up along fence lines, in arroyos, and in utility lines!	Cognito
133		I support a ban on plastic bags, like in this ordinance. Section 4-b-2 should instead call out plastic bags specifically to prevent liquid leakage (of whatever, not just takeout food), and not allow grocery-handle-style bags (which are not leak-proof) for takeout. Section 4-b-4 is not needed---no reason to exempt dry cleaning/laundry.	Cognito
134	REBECCA DAHL	I don't think banning bags and controlling people's lives is the answer. Teach correct principles and we can do it ourselves. I always brought my own bags to the grocery store when I got extra pts to use them. If I get plastic, I reuse them.	Cognito
135		In our household, we reuse the "single-use plastic bags". We use them for cat litter, trash collection in our vehicles, dog waste pick up, moving items from our household to elsewhere, ect. If the "single-use plastic bags" were not provided anymore, we would buy a biodegradable version to still use for above mentioned reasons. We "recycle" the not reused "single-use plastic bags" by taking them to the drop off bin inside the entrance of the Los Alamos Smith's. I would support a requirement to provide biodegradable bags at retail stores/charge a fee if it costs the retailer more to supply them & phase out "single-use plastic bags".	Cognito
136	Andrew Fraser	I don't like plastic bags, but I oppose the ban. I believe that making paper bags is worse for the environment. Like Ko-Ko in the Mikado, I have a list of things that would not be missed. Although plastic bags are on it. It's not appropriate to have laws against everything on my list.	Cognito
137	Anne Nobile	I support the single use bag ordinance. I've traveled to one European country and at least one American city that enforces a similar rule. Works fine.	Cognito
138		I love this ordinance! It's a great way to get rid of a very problematic source of plastic waste and I've been hoping to see something like this proposed!	Cognito
139	Los Alamos Lock and	Los Alamos Lock and Key votes against the plastic bag ban. Our staff reuse plastic bags for many purposes in our business including as packing material for our daily outgoing orders. We received the 2026 Sustainable Small Business of the Year award from the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce and imposing a ban on plastic bags would force us to increase costs to our customers for alternatives used in place of the plastic bags.	Cognito
140	Steven Mullins	This has been voted on and did not pass twice in the last decade. I'm not sure which members of the council have this as a personal agenda, but the voters have spoken, not once, but twice. We do not want a ban. Most of us re-use our bags for other purposes.	Cognito
141		STRONGLY OPPOSED. Please do not pass this ordinance. Encourage responsible use, alternatives, and provide for more readily identifiable drop-off locations for used plastic bags, but this ordinance is a bad idea. Intentionally adding to nuisance fees is malicious.	Cognito
142		Why do reusable bags need stitched handles? I have some whose handles are cutout in the cloth, so there are no stitches. Are those not acceptable? O know it doesn't really change the ordinance proposal, but it is an odd definition. Hopefully the others don't have weirdness like this that create loopholes	Cognito
143	David DeCroix	Please ban them, we do not need plastic bags anymore. It's too easy to just use reusable bags.	Cognito
144		Keep as it is, no need to change. Please!	Cognito
145	Jacci Gruninger	I think this is a GREAT idea and can't believe Los Alamos doesn't already have a policy in place. I am all for everything this policy stands for. Please vote YES!	Cognito
146	John Q Public	I'm against this type of regulation on libertarian principle. The trend in town is toward people toting their reusable bags. Bravo. But don't regulate it.	Cognito
147		I would prefer the county find more initiatives that would affect the major businesses in the area, than performative measures asking individuals to sacrifice. We reuse plastic bags in a multitude of ways in my home, and banning them would add unnecessary expense to my small family, as we would then have to buy plastic bags to make up the difference. And those plastic bags we would buy, would affect the environment just as much. Maybe we could take a look at how the lab continues to poison our land instead?	Cognito
148		I do NOT support the proposed ordinance.	Cognito

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

149	Nona Girardi	I strongly support this proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance for Los Alamos County. Please enact it as soon as possible! It's so easy and convenient to use Reusable Carryout Bags (and for some items, Recyclable Cardboard Boxes) for groceries and other shopping. I've been doing so for decades. Many communities outside Los Alamos have been banning or restricting single use plastic bags for years, and those communities have reaped the benefits, without suffering harms. Requiring reusable bags also has the beneficial side effect of routinely gently reminding all of us to try to reduce our use of other plastics and other single-use items when we can. Single use plastic bags are a visible mess, a source of pollution and a danger to wildlife in the short run, and in the longer run, they are a source of toxic chemicals that endanger human health and the environment as they degrade and disperse, whether as litter or in landfills. They cannot be effectively recycled, in spite of many attempts. And when accidentally or carelessly added to single-stream recycling, they interfere with or even prevent the recycling of otherwise recyclable materials, and add to the expense of waste disposal. This proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance is particularly good because it makes clear the exemptions to the ban, and allows the continued use of single use plastic bags in those limited cases in which single use plastics are actually appropriate for protecting safety, health, or the environment.	Cognito
150		Dear Members of the ESB and County Council, Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed ordinance regarding the ban on single-use plastic carryout bags. While I appreciate the boards intent to protect our beautiful local environment and align with the County's Climate Action Plan, I am writing to express my opposition to this ordinance. My opposition is based not on a disregard for sustainability, but on environmental and economic data showing that outright bans often yield unintended consequences that run counter to the goals stated in Section 2 of this proposal. I ask the board and Council to consider the following evidence-based points before voting: 1. The Environmental Lifecycle Paradox Section 2 of the ordinance states that this measure aims to "reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel usages." However, comprehensive Lifecycle Assessments (LCAs)—including those by the UK Environment Agency and Denmark's Ministry of Environment and Food—demonstrate that traditional thin plastic bags actually have the lowest carbon footprint and energy usage in production and transport compared to alternatives. Paper Bags: Paper bag production is highly water- and chemical-intensive. To match the low global warming potential of a single-use plastic bag, a recycled paper bag must be reused at least 4 to 7 times. Because paper bags tear easily, they are rarely reused to this extent, meaning a shift to paper may actually increase the County's net carbon footprint. Reusable Bags: Heavy-duty reusable bags (cotton or woven polypropylene) require massive amounts of energy to produce. A cotton tote must be used over 130 times, and non-woven PP bags must be used dozens of times, just to break even with the environmental footprint of a standard plastic bag. If consumers treat these heavier bags as semi-disposable, the environmental burden worsens. 2. The "Bag Leakage" Effect and Waste Generation	Cognito
151		I reuse plastic grocery bags for daily trash disposal. If stores can't offer them when I make purchases, I will purchase plastic bags for the same purpose. Either way, I will use small plastic bags	Cognito
152	Sharon Fogle	This is a terrible idea. Los Alamos should NOT adopt a ban on plastic bags. Most people reuse plastic bags for a many uses.	Cognito
153	Charlotte Sartor	I support the proposed plastic bag ordinance. There are many problems with plastic bags. They are made from fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases are produced with their manufacture. They contribute to litter. &nev er completely biodegrade, They just break into smaller and smaller particles that contribute to pollution and enter the food chain. We should be doing everything we can to reduce the use of plastic.	Cognito
154	Stephanie Haaser	These bags are reusable. Have you considered a campaign to demonstrate to people ways they could reuse these bags? Vehicle trash bags, small trash can liners, pet waste, lunch bags, and diaper waste bags are the ways my family reuses these bags. I'm sure others have interesting ways they reuse them, too. Having lived in Austin, TX following a bag ban, my family purchased more plastic bags from the store. We still need waste liners and pet waste bags.	Cognito
155	Liz Laskey	My husband and I are completely for the ban on the bags.	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

156	Eileen Tobey	There is no reason for this legislation. Most people in this community are responsible trustees of the environment. Even though the grocery sacks are designed for single use many of us have second uses for those bags. Many of us reuse as grocery sacks until they fall apart and for waste disposal prior to going into the black trash bags. Disposable diapers (baby and adult) frequently are disposed of in grocery sacks. With the grocery sacks no longer available, buying plastic bags may be the only option. (We're already buying the black trash bags.) We used to wash diapers. With this in mind, perhaps legislation against disposable diapers should come next. I hope not! Sixty-five years ago, Pampers came out with a flushable baby diaper. Obviously, that was a bigger problem for sewer systems. Then came the idea of biodegradable baby diapers that would biodegrade if left in the sun. Can you imagine yards covered in hundreds of baby diapers? We have hundreds of children still in diapers in Los Alamos. This isn't the only reason plastic grocery sacks are important, but please keep this in mind when you think about legislation against these sacks.	Email
157	Jeanette Moss	Plastic bags do not cause a severe pollution issue in Los Alamos. Why don't you focus on keeping our electricity bills down instead of on stupid things like banning plastic bags. This is just another item that is going to cost the consumers more money. I disagree with the plastic bag ban and think you should focus on helping your constituents deal with inflation and rising gas prices.	Email
158	Kevin Willis	I wish to take this opportunity to recommend a NO vote to banning plastic bags in Los Alamos County. Ever try to pick up your dog's poop with a paper bag? Ever return home from the grocery store and found the bloody juice from a package of chicken that has dripped on your produce? A large number of Los Alamos residents reuse plastic bags for any number of purposes such as lining small trash cans, storing household items, carrying our children's wet swimsuits home from the pool, or even makeshift lunch bags. From a climate change perspective, it is a readily accessible fact that the manufacture of plastic grocery bags requires far less carbon emissions than paper bags and reusable bags. Surprise! The chicken that I purchase at the grocery store is packaged in plastic, along with many other items that plastic is the only good way to package them to reduce spoilage and cross contamination. I carry these items home in a plastic grocery bag. I reuse the plastic garbage bag for various reasons, and when I toss them I place them in a larger plastic bag containing my garbage. These plastic bags are important enough to Los Alamos citizens that if you ban them, we will still have to purchase plastic trash bags at the store to replace them. I don't see how this helps the issue of plastics in waste management. I don't see why the County Council continues to find new ways for Los Alamos citizens to spend additional money to live our lives. For once I'd like to see you consider ways to make our lives better and reduce the costs we bear due to your decisions. Please VOTE NO to banning plastic bags.	Email
159	Nancy Willis	I am contacting you to express my opposition to banning plastic bags. Many residents of Los Alamos County use and reuse plastic bags for a variety of purposes. Also, the bags are recyclable and can be taken back to stores for re-use, so already are being used responsibly. Paper bags often break and items fall through when there is any kind of spillage. Plastic bags also are more economical for businesses costing about \$0.01 to \$0.05 per unit, compared to paper bags which range from \$0.05 to \$0.25 each. It has become fashionable to criticize plastics as environmentally bad, but an American Chemical Society study, concluded in 15 of 16 examined applications, (packaging being one of them), plastic products release 10 to 90 % fewer emissions across their life cycle compared to glass or aluminum. Let's not ban plastic bags just for the sake of banning plastic bags. Thank you.	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

160	Lisa Gonzales	Below is my comment on the plastic bag ordinance published by the Los Alamos Reporter. So to give your input you have to attend the meeting or send an email to ESB@losalamosnm.gov To make it easier and transparent, the county should put out a survey citizens can answer online. Before a decision is made, those results should be made available to all citizens. An email is not a measurable result! I would truly like a response from all email recipients, not a basic email from "on behalf of." The Council needs to be more transparent.	Email
161	Bill Cooper	I am completely against the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance. First they are used multiple times at home also for small trash containers, pet animal waste etc. Does the county really need to be involved in this type of micro management nanny state stuff?? Worry about commercial development, keeping costs and taxes down and affordable housing.	Email
162	Barbara Royer	It took some time to remember to always carry in my reusable bags to the Marketplace; but I have now been doing it for years. We can all adjust..CO did.	Email
163	Jan Macek	The County seems to be focused on banning plastic bags that many residents, including myself reuse even though I use recyclable bags in the supermarket. I use them for garbage and I use them to put items in for Freecycle that people pick up etc. Members of recycling organizations reciprocate when I pick up items. There are so many other plastic items that are detrimental to the environment as well as to living creatures that should be banned. I am really curious why plastic bags are singled out and you are ignoring items like plastic bird netting which is a plastic that lasts for decades and is a trap for many unsuspecting innocent creatures. The Internet is full of dead snakes and so many other animals that are caught in this netting. Pictured is a dead coachwhip in plastic landscape netting. We were too late to save it. Second and third pics are of plastic netting taken off my neighbors yard. They put it on their junipers to keep the deer from eating them during the winter. I asked permission to take it off in the spring since snakes would be emerging soon. What a waste of good money since I destroyed the netting and bagged it up for the garbage. A few years ago I contacted someone in the County when I noticed it in the ditches on San Ildefonso on North Mesa. I sent the gentleman a lot of literature on netting and why it should never be used. So please shift your focus on something that is really bad for the environment. I really hope that I have given you something to think about.	Email
164	James Doyle	This has been rejected overwhelmingly by the citizens of Los Alamos multiple times since 2015. Is this yet another attempt to take advantage of citizen fatigue with this topic to ram it down our throats? There are so many more important issues that should be addressed. Forget this issue and focus on more important issues.	Email
165	Sharon Sadler	Dear Council Members The "ban" on plastic bags is concerning to me. When I hear about a ban I see one group of people forcing their opinions and ideology on the rest of society. It smacks of authoritarian rule. I like, use and re-use my plastic shopping bags as does everyone I know. Please give common sense thought to this before pushing this ban on the citizens of Los Alamos. Thank you	Email
166	Tatiana Lilley	Please do not ban plastic bags. This town is already a hard enough place to run a small business, and these restrictions, albeit well-meaning, do little to help the environment. It imposes an unnecessary cost and challenge to small businesses. Banning plastic bags in favor of paper or reusable bags does not necessarily decrease the carbon footprint involved in shopping or getting take-out food, and it would make the experience more cumbersome and less convenient. It makes people less likely to patronize a small business when there is another task they have to remember, like bringing their own bags. It incentivizes more online shopping for specialty items, which means more small trucks on the road to deliver these items. And it keeps local money out of the local community. Please do not place more burdens on the businesses within Los Alamos county, many of which are already struggling to keep their doors open. There are too many empty shops and buildings on our streets. The county should be looking for ways to make it easier to own and operate a business here. Large businesses may be able to absorb the cost or pass it on to customers, but not every business can.	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

167	Diane Pattara	I am writing to state my opposition to this ban and the proposed bill that will be presented to the council. I bike, drive, and walk all over Los Alamos County and never see discarded plastic bags. I don't believe there is a significant problem in this county that would justify such drastic and impactful legislation. So far the county has relied on education and that seems to be adequate. I personally have changed my behavior and now I use reusable bags but I think some people prefer to reuse the plastic bags for various purposes. I just think the county needs a really strong, firmly documented reason for taking away the choices and rights of its citizens in this case the right to chose plastic bags.	Email
168	Joyce Anderson	I am writing in regard to the proposed ban on plastic carry out bags. I have some concerns with the text of the ordinance. First, the text of the ordinance states the purpose of this action is to reduce litter. If you look around Los Alamos or go out on the trails or into the parks, plastic bags are not the problem. You're more likely to find soda cans, water bottles, and food wrappers and paper waste. There wasn't evidence in the published materials that supports this claim. In 2015, the ESB, after nine months of study, determined that the real problem was yard waste and food waste, not plastic bags. At the end of the ordinance the claim is made that plastic shopping bags are "injurious and a danger to public health." This is complete nonsense. Second, In Los Alamos County all garbage has to be bagged. Everyone re-uses their bags to line garbage cans and to pick up pet waste. When my kids were still little, I would use these bags to wrap up dirty diapers or soiled clothing. Grocery carry out bags are the most re-used item in the modern home. I argue that if a ban is passed there will be an increase in litter of all types. And frankly, I do not want to have to pick up other people's pet waste from my yard, because they didn't have a bag. Third, the County can and should do better at educating the public on what can and cannot go into the blue recycle barrels. A lot of people are still unaware that a Smiths bag cannot be recycled at the County's recycling vendor. They're also unaware that Smiths will take leftover bags and wraps (eg: shrink wraps, dry cleaning bags) to be recycled at a facility set up for plastic bags and wraps. A well crafted public education campaign would do more good than a bag ban. Fourth, the penalties for violating any ban are excessive and punitive. Four days in jail for a petty misdemeanor? That is ridiculous and could be considered an 8th Amendment violation. Fifth, alternative bags eg: paper, cloth, non-woven polypropylene all have their environmental impacts. There are only trade offs. Let people decide for themselves what those trade offs will be.	Email
169	Rebecca Shankland	I urge the Environmental Sustainability Board to ban the use of plastic bags In the County of Los Alamos. There are several reasons: 1. Plastic is one of the most damaging elements in our environment as it disintegrates and makes its way to lakes and oceans. 2. In those waters the fish eat it. 3. We eat the fish. Plastic stays in fish in the form of microplastics--very dangerous because we can't see them. 4. Imagine having thousands of those tiny plastic particles in the food you eat and thus in your body. 5. To avoid this kind of pollution, you can use paper, even for loose pieces of fruit 6. How many plastic bags have you seen disgracing our ugly roadsides and our beautiful trees? The answer: far too many	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

170	Alex Lilley	Please do not ban plastic bags. This town is already a hard enough place to run a small business, and these restrictions, albeit well-meaning, do little to help the environment. It imposes an unnecessary cost and challenge to small businesses. Banning plastic bags in favor of paper or reusable bags does not necessarily decrease the carbon footprint involved in shopping or getting take-out food, and it would make the experience more cumbersome and less convenient. It makes people less likely to patronize a small business when there is another task they have to remember, like bringing their own bags. It incentivizes more online shopping for specialty items, which means more small trucks on the road to deliver these items. And it keeps local money out of the local community. Please do not place more burdens on the businesses within Los Alamos county, many of which are already struggling to keep their doors open. There are too many empty shops and buildings on our streets. The county should be looking for ways to make it easier to own and operate a business here. Large businesses may be able to absorb the cost or pass it on to customers, but not every business can.	Email
171	Mary Wilhoit	A proposed plastic bag ban has already been defeated twice by the citizens of Los Alamos County. We do not want it. 1. They are not single-use bags. People use them for all kinds of additional uses (e.g. - lining small trash cans, animal waste, wet clothing, re-using for transporting various items, storing small items to prevent them from getting dusty, and many more). 2. There are so many items in the grocery stores and other stores packaged in plastic that have much more effect on the environment than plastic bags. 3. Reusable bags end up transmitting germs (possibly disease) due to build-up over time. 4. Citizens do not yet need another fee to have to pay with all the price increases we are already facing. 5. The penalties being proposed are quite unreasonable and severe. 6. If you've been paying attention to the comments online, the majority of them have been against this. 7. There are so many more important issues to be spending time on than this one. I will not be available to attend the meeting for this on the 16th, however, I hope you will consider all the responses you've received and things that will be expressed in person at the meeting. Please do not waste time and tax-payer money on this issue for a 3rd time!	Email
172	Sheryl Bateman	Hello, I may not be able to attend the upcoming meeting, but I want to share my strong opposition to the proposed plastic bag ordinance. When Smith's previously stopped offering free plastic bags, we experienced significant inconvenience. I was relieved when that policy ended because it created several practical problems for everyday residents: We often had to make extra trips home to retrieve reusable bags when we forgot them, which increased fuel use and added unnecessary driving. Free plastic bags served important secondary purposes in my household, such as lining small trash cans and handling pet waste. Losing access to them forced us to purchase additional products or drive to Espanola for shopping where we could still get free plastic bags. On multiple occasions, we simply skipped shopping trips when we realized we didn't have our bags with us. I believe a county wide ordinance would create similar situations and could negatively affect local retailers. My household still uses reusable bags when it is convenient, but we appreciate having the flexibility to choose what works best for us. A mandatory ordinance would feel like a return to a system that punished residents for simple forgetfulness rather than encouraging voluntary environmental choices. I also believe that environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional plastic bags are improving rapidly. It seems likely that better, affordable options will become available in the near future. I respectfully ask the County not to adopt an ordinance that forces residents and retailers into a difficult transition before those alternatives exist. Thank you for considering my comments.	Email
173	Kathleen	We recycle single use bags at smiths. No reason to get rid of them. The cloth bags get thrown in the garbage and don't get recycled. Instead of a ban, why not recycle?	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

174	Marilyn Montoya	Please ban single use plastic bags. So many reasons to discontinue use, micro plastics contaminate our soil, rivers and drinking water.	Email
175	Debbie Davidson Morley	I worked near the Landfill, 1,000s of those darn things fly around at the slightest breeze and get stuck in the trees. They are like invasive jellyfish.	Facebook
176	Gerry Kurz Hall	Santa Fe banned them 12 years ago. I carry my own reusable tote bags with me.	Facebook
177	Joan Schultz	I reuse them to line wastebaskets, take garden veggies to neighbors, take care of kitty litter, and have seen them used by responsible dog walkers. Having to buy boxed plastic bags is the very definition of single use. I'd rather see a ban on single use plastic water bottles of less than 16 oz.	Facebook
178	Brian Cox	Why bother? You'll do whatever you want and ignore the people's opinions	Email
179	Kristine Treat	It's kinda sad that this comment has the most responses. It's really sad that the County government's decision-making is so predictable.	Facebook
180	Amy Storey	Reducing plastic use is a step in the right direction for our planet. Agreed! But substituting them for paper bags is the wrong step. I'm sure there's some middle ground. They banned single use bags where I grew up. You wind up paying \$0.10 each for thicker "reusable" plastic bags. Since each thick bag weighs 5-10 times as much, you wind up with more plastic. The thicker bags are more useful for carrying bigger loads, but they're too stiff to use in spots like bathroom trash cans, etc., so you wind up needing to buy tiny trash can bags for those. The environmental benefit, if any, is unclear to me. I don't think anyone has a clear picture of it - they couldn't unless they knew what proportion of folks would continue to buy the \$0.10 bags after banning the single use ones.	Facebook
181	Landon Cartwright	you can eliminate single use use plastics at your county run non-profit grocery store.	Facebook
182	Andrew Gaspar	The posting seems to claim we have a littering problem since we brought back single use plastic bags - do you have any numbers you can put on that. Surely this can be quantified? This is so silly, you don't need to "encourage" institutions to charge a fee - they will freely charge it themselves if they think that is what is best for their business (I assume most won't). What does it even mean to "encourage" in the context of a county ordinance - are we just using ordinances for our Twitter posts and newspaper op-eds now? I also don't understand what the rational basis could be for allowing food banks to use plastic bags but not grocery stores - they seem to be functionally identical in this case. Here you go, 2% of all litter. https://api.realfile.rtsclients.com/PublicFiles/f260a66b364d453e91ff9b3fedd494dc/7a37281e-15b2-43df-b3b2-f50896872ecc/NMDOT%20Litter%20Study%20Final%20Version.pdf	Facebook
183	Joyce Brinton Anderson	They do not have any numbers. In my research on this issue (3rd time), these are jst copy and paste phrases from other cities ordiances and groups that want bag bans.	Facebook
184	Robert Cormier	How much does Los Alamos spend on recycling per year. How much of the collected recycling waste gets recycled?	Facebook
185	Kathy Felthaus	This was voted down twice already. Just like the Blue Whale was voted down, but the county did it to us anyway.	Facebook
186	Patricia J Masterson	You know you can all show up to County Council and meetings instead of just comment threads. that would require half of the angry commenters to live in New Mexico or be real humans rather than AI bots.	Facebook
187	Dave Connell	Tell me you're virtue signaling without telling me you're virtue signaling. Tell you've accomplished nothing in city government, and you don't intend to ever, but you wanna make it look like you do something.	Facebook
188	Nancy P. Teague	This county council is way off base, as usual. Better stand up to them or they'll just keep doing things that aren't good for this county and its residents.	Facebook
189	Doc Miller	The little town of Los Alamos...The burning huge issue is we need to ban single used plastic bags... I hope all your people realize what a joke these people that you have making these decisions actually are. If our votes counted and mattered that would be one thing, but no matter how many times we vote, the same lame duck people get elected so they can plow county money into contractors' pockets.	Facebook
190	Tom Ragsdale	Why bother? You bastards are just going to do whatever the hell you want anyway, and if not now, you'll try again in a couple months and treat the citizens like they have the memory of a goldfish anyway. Seconding make tar and feathering great again, especially if we bring in the sibling organization for running people out of town while riding a rail.	Facebook
191	Robert Garrett	This issue is vastly more important than what they just did to electric rates.	Facebook
192	Terence Shereck	This a stupid topic IMO	Facebook
193	Greg Holland	County government out of control	Facebook
194	Jeff Luehring	Stop Already Los Alamos!! Find some REAL issues to worry about!!	Facebook
195	John Halladay	Stupid!	Facebook
196	Hugh Rich	Ignorant liberals	Facebook
197	Jon Teague	"It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience." In case you can't figure it out that's you councilors.	Facebook

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

198	Anthony Ortiz	I have seen more bundles being buried than recycled. They throw more recycling. Then any other country. Know they don't have a land fill.	Facebook
199	James K	I think reducing plastic bags is a great idea, provided customer can pay extra if they need them. I use my own bags; if I forget, I take the cart to the car and unload. Love helping make the world better for everyone.	Cognito
200	Martel Day	An idea is to incentivize discount initiatives for bringing own bags, containers, or various other multi use articles. And on the other hand charge for single use containers, bags, cups etc...	Cognito
201		Yes, I support!	Cognito
202	David Bowman	I support reducing the use of single-use plastic bags; however, I do not believe that local government should pass an ordinance addressing the issue. I do not believe that government resources should be spent in addressing, much less enforcing or penalizing, what sort of bags the supermarket uses. An effort to address single-use plastic bags should flow from consumers, addressed to the management of the stores. Clearly, Natural Grocers and the Co-op market have gotten on board avoiding single-use bags without ordinances. The role of any government should be as limited as possible. Dictating grocery bag construction is beyond the scope of a limited government.	Cognito
203	Jody Benson	"Dear ESB, I support the County's proposed bag ban. It's way past time. Remember smoking? Remember when smokers and tobacco companies had rights exceeding those of the public? In 1954 Richard Doll and A. Bradford Hill published an article in the British Medical Journal that confirmed the link between smoking and lung cancer. But it wasn't until 1987 that smoking was banned on domestic flights of less than two hours, and then it took two more years until 1989 for the Senate to ban smoking on all domestic flights. Even though by 1993 EPA research showed that secondhand smoke is responsible for diminishing respiratory health in children and causes lung cancer deaths in nonsmoking adults, only by December 1993 did hospitals impose the no-smoking policies. Nonsmokers still had to put up with smoking everywhere else. Finally, in 1995 California had the courage to ban smoking in restaurants. Here in New Mexico we had to endure second hand smoke in restaurants and even offices until 2007. Despite all the data, 22 states still allow smoking in restaurants to some extent, as they lack comprehensive, 100% statewide indoor smoke-free laws. It's harder for people to kick nicotine than to kick the single-use-plastic shopping bag, and yet the public-health science that finally forced legislators to put their constituents over tobacco companies isn't forcing Los Alamos to lead its residents to healthier choices. And yes, the threat of a bag ban is currently causing withdrawal symptoms among a few, but those few will soon enough become as acclimated to bringing their own bags as we are to no smoking on planes. Those bags are as rude and dangerous as cigarettes. The bag ban was first brought to the County in 2014. A very vocal section of the community opposed it. Even though the science and the economy supported the ban in 2014, the Council did not want to engage in the controversy. But there is no controversy. The data is unarguable. Plastic pollution is reaching an irreversible	Cognito
204	J Joseph	What about pizza boxes? Will customers have to bring their own containers when they pick up baked pizzas? Or will pizza boxes be included in the list of exemptions? The boxes are often too greasy to recycle.	Cognito
205	Craig Martin	I've been using re-usable shopping bags for at least 10 years now. How many times have I felt an inconvenience? Well, during COVID 19 in 2020, I was not permitted to use my reusable bags, that was an understandable inconvenience. As someone responsible for County trail maintenance for 12 years, pulling plastic shopping bags out of drainages and trees was an unnecessary task considering the small personal "sacrifice" necessary to reuse a bag. Remember, "freedom" is often nothing more than "MEdom."	Cognito
206	June Fabryka-Martin	I am in favor of the proposed ordinance. It is consistent with the County's adopted Climate Action Plan and Zero Carbon Emissions goal. Complying with the ordinance is easy, and similar initiatives have been adopted throughout the country. Please don't let a few vocal naysayers prevent the County from doing what is right in the 21st century.	Cognito
207		I am writing in support of the plastic bag ban. I have used my own bags since the early 1990s. Not only is it not a problem I prefer having sturdy and/or insulated bags. When I walk and pick up trash it is often plastic bags.	Cognito

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

208	George Idzorek	I am opposed to the proposed bag ban in los alamos county. I would be forced to purchase plastic bags to replace the ones the county wants to ban. Many residents re-use the Smith's. Paper bags are not suitable for many purposes so end up in trash after one use. Please think of the residents and oppose this silly, useless ordinance.	Email
209	Bryan Fearey	VOTE NO. NO -- we do NOT want to eliminate plastic bags. The plastic bags are environmentally "green" (when ALL lifecycle costs/impacts are included). Importantly, this AGAIN will negatively impacts small business. VOTE NO.	Cognito
210	Cherity Mc Dermott	I have been apart of the paper / plastic issue for years. In my opinion from a personal standpoint, plastic is easier to use. I also use the plastic bag around the house for other things as well. Paper has to be double bagged for items that are heavy. There is a cost increase for the paper bag as well. In the stores that I run (Both Metzger's Hardware) we ask the customer if they would like a bag in the 1st place and if paper or plastic is there is preference. At my place of work, we see a lot of people who do not want either. I truly appreciate this. I believe that the customer should be asked and have a right to choose. Santa Fe had a mandate for paper bags. It works. On the other side when everything needs to be double bagged the saving the planet issue comes into effect. In my younger years working in a grocery store we saw this alot. There is no good answer for the topic except the people need to use good judgment. Do we even need a bag for 2 items? There should be a choice. That is my vote. I do not think the plastic / paper topic should be mandated. Thank you for letting me express my opinion. Cherity	Cognito
211	Joe Granville	Reducing the projected 60 million single use plastic bags over the next 20 years helps reduce the plastic bits resulting from plastic bag degradation, reduces plastic bags as trash and saves money by eliminating a major source of damage to our water infrastructure as plastic bags have to be manually removed from drainage and filtration systems. Thank you Council!	Cognito
212	Kellie Kish	I saw this article in Waste Advantage's email newsletter. While I didn't read the article itself (sadly no time), I do want to encourage you to change the ordinance from a 'single-use' bag ban to a 'plastic carryout bag ban'. Other communities who have enacted 'single-use' bans have ended up quadrupling the amount of plastic distributed due to their definitions of a 'reusable' plastic bag – completely defeating the purpose of the ordinance in the first place. Not sure if that's something you've looked at, but wanted to take a minute to share that feedback. Thanks and let me know if you have any questions,	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

213	Michele Altherr	I fully support LAC Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance. In 2008-09 I lead a group of my environmental club kids to raise awareness about using reusable bags. Of course residents will object. So I believe you have to educate the population over time about the "why" as you are rolling out the ordinance. Also, the word "ban" is a loaded word and I suggest renaming the ordinance. Below is a description of the project summarizing how we educated the public about the importance of reusable bags. You could recreate some of these ideas and get even more creative. "Plastic Bag Free Los Alamos" Campaign: This project began in March 2008. The kids enlisted the help of our grocery store, Smith's, and gave training presentations to the store staff on the importance of offering reusable bags to shoppers. Smith's made signs for their parking lot and store telling shoppers to remember their bag. They made an educational information display and took it to different public locations, like banks, to put on display. They also went into some classrooms to teach about the importance of using reusable bags. The club kids also tried their hand at making reusable bags by reusing plastic bags and fusing multiple layers together. For Earth Day, the club members distributed reusable bags, donated by Smith's, along with informative flyers to over 1200 elementary students. They also created a public service announcement using clay animation, which aired in the local theater. The members held a bake sale and reinvested the funds raised in reusable bag stickers. In the fall of 2008, they distributed these stickers to downtown businesses to post as reminders to their customers to use their reusable bags. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce printed bags with our logo, which were given away for free at various community events. During 52 weeks of the campaign, 865,170 fewer plastic bags were given out. This equated to 432 cases LESS in plastic bags making it to our landfill. Attached is a newspaper article that a club member wrote. Hopefully these summaries provide inspirations.	Email
214	Valerie Shelley	In studies of other locations that have enacted bans, County did not consider actual bans put forth. Have there been other communities that have been able to address the apparent trash use without an overall ban? Have they been able to persuade the community to act in a way that they believe reusable bags will be better? Has the County been able to persuade the people of Los Alamos County to share their views? Use persuasion rather than a straight up ban. Asking if people actually want the ban rather than coming up with a ban on their own.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2026
215	Michael	You don't need to ban single-use bags in order to reduce the use of those bags, feels like government overreach. There have been multiple studies that show that the impact of banning plastic bags has a negative impact on the environment because the energy required to produce replacements is more. The impact is not offset unless the reusable/paper bags are used significantly large amounts of times.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2027
216	Jason	Appreciate the intent behind the proposal. Concern is that this approach is not the most effective way to achieve the goal of environmental sustainability. Other retail stores may not be able to hold against the higher impact costs of this ban. If the objective is reducing plastic, it would be best to focus on a wider range of plastics rather than a single item, as plastic is a part of every grocery trip. If customers are paying higher fees for plastic bags, what's the purpose? Will it go towards recycling? Believe that education is just as important as regulation.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2028
217	Joyce Anderson	Tradeoffs also have environmental impacts, it is important for people to be able to make decisions for themselves. Many young mothers use these plastic bags to wrap up diapers. In 2024 ABQ rescinded bag ban because they discovered it was an undue burden on citizens and businesses. It is more likely that you will see soda cans, bottles, than plastic bags out in LAC. The penalty is ridiculous, as 4 days in jail seems excessive.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2029
218	Elizabeth Jones	Don't consider these bags to be single-use. Used for litter bags, wet swim suits, etc. Reusable bags cannot be used for a lot of these purposes. For example, pet litter. Will continue to use plastic bags, if they aren't available at the store will buy from elsewhere online. Education is important.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2030
219	Scofield	Would increase carbon footprint because automobiles will leave the hill to shop in locations where there is not a plastic bag ban. We need to be considerate of the business community and what might harm businesses.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2031
220	Don Marie	What is the overall goal? If the goal is to get rid of litter, more cleanup days or clubs to organize trash should be implemented instead. Has the board investigated biodegradable options? Can we create an item that is more biodegradable that will help us reach our goals but will not involve a ban? People need to be able to make individual choices, not the government's place to make the choice. It is however the government's role to provide education in order to help individual's make the right choice.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2032

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

221	Jody Benson	Plastic bags are dangerous. However this is a question of political view. In 1957 CDC recognized that smoking was bad for your health. However, it was not until 2007 that smoking in enclosed spaces was banned in NM. Plastic bags are a personal choice. It is not up to the retailer to pay for the bag, it is up to the customer. This is about personal freedom. Therefore I fully support this plastic bag ban.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2033
222	Celeste	Absolutely support ban. Average household gets 12 single use bags per week. 620 plastic bags per household per year. 5 million plastic bags a year are used in LAC. Each plastic bag costs retailers 2 cents. Almost a 100,000 just for single use bags. Plastic degrades into microplastics, which is everywhere: water, air, etc. Scientists are finding frightening amounts of microplastics in skeletons, brain.	Public Comment at ESB Meeting July 16, 2034
223	Cyndi Wells	Dear Environmental Sustainability Board Members, I am writing as both a resident of Los Alamos County and the owner of Pet Pangaea LLC, a small Los Alamos retail business that also provides same-day local delivery seven days a week. I support efforts to reduce litter and unnecessary single-use materials. However, after reading the proposed plastic carryout bag ordinance, I have several concerns about its definitions, environmental assumptions, and criminal enforcement provisions. Pet Pangaea currently purchases more expensive, heavier plastic bags because they are durable and reusable. Customers have told me that they have reused our bags for years, including as lunch bags and for other everyday purposes. Nevertheless, the proposed definition of a "Reusable Carryout Bag" appears to exclude our bags regardless of their durability or actual reuse. The definition recognizes only cloth, hemp, woven polypropylene, or laminated woven polypropylene bags with stitched handles. Could the ordinance use performance-based criteria instead, such as minimum thickness, load capacity, durability, recycled content, or a specified number of uses? A bag that is genuinely reused for years should not necessarily be treated the same as a very thin disposable checkout bag simply because of its material or handle construction. I am particularly concerned about Section 7. It makes an owner guilty of a petty misdemeanor, treats every day as a separate violation, and permits imprisonment for a fourth or subsequent violation. At the same time, the ordinance does not require that the owner knowingly, intentionally, or negligently violate the law. For example, what would happen if I were out of town, our approved bags unexpectedly ran out, and an employee purchased and used substitute bags for several days? Would I be subject to criminal prosecution and potentially imprisonment even if I had trained my employees, provided compliant supplies, and corrected the issue as soon as I learned of it? The definition of "Owner" also includes a corporation as well as a representative or agent responsible for daily operations. It is therefore unclear who would be prosecuted at a chain retailer. Would the "owner" of Smith's be the corporation, the local store manager, another employee, or some combination of these? The ordinance should identify who is legally responsible and under what circumstances, particularly when criminal penalties are involved. I respectfully suggest replacing the criminal penalties with a civil enforcement process that includes: 1. Education or a written warning for an initial violation.	Email - Post ESB Meeting
224	Jon Kidner	The definition of "single use" ignores the prevalent use of grocery bags for household trash cans, pet clean up, and other reuses of grocery bags. If those bags are removed from circulation, residents will still need to purchase bespoke plastic bags for these roles. Simply increasing the cost of containing trash and decreasing our ability to reuse. Given the exceptions in the rule, the primary location that will be impacted are grocery stores, as take out is excepted. Logic would suggest that grocery procured bags are a less prevalent source of litter given that they tend to have groceries in them which are being transported home where they are less likely to find their way into the environment compared with say takeout taken to a park. These exceptions also mean that the county can not remove the recycling infrastructure as these bags will still exist, even if in smaller quantities. Lastly there is the convenience factor. Reusable bags are great provided you: dont get more than anticipated, swing by the house to pick them up, or spam more bags than could reasonably be used as a "just in case" in every vehicle. Which is a burden that seems unlikely to be offset. Acknowledging that I do not have statistical data on the source of plastic bags in the environment, and that these arguments flow from anecdotal usage of our family and every other family I have discussed with this legislation seems to impose additional cost and purchased plastic bag usage where reuse is prevalent, as well as not addressing the likely most prolific sources of bags in the environment.	Cognito - Post ESB Meeting

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

225	Jennifer Holmes	Hello LA ESB, I have read the proposed ordinance and I support it. Please pass it. AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE V, BANNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND ENCOURAGING RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS TO CHARGE A FEE FOR RECYCLED CONTENT PAPER CARRYOUT BAGS.	Email - Post ESB Meeting
226	Karyl	I support not giving plastic bags out . Or charge for them since the businesses that use them have to buy them! Even though many people reuse them several times, the majority of people do not. Although plastic reusable bags eventually die, people have used them 100's of times before they are no longer functional Thank you for trying to ban single use bags.	Email
227	Selvi Viswanathan	Note: The previous email was my draft. This is the final copy. To the Environmental Sustainability Board I am Selvi Viswanathan and I support your Plastic Bag Ban ordinance. After several years of community work, Los Alamos became a certified National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat. Our County was the first community in New Mexico to become nationally certified. Our work was to help residents understand the five natural elements of a habitat for wildlife. Many community members stepped up to certify their yards. Luisa Grant from NWF in Washington DC personally came to Los Alamos and presented the award to County officials on Earth Day 2016 at our Los Alamos Nature Center. So I support the passing of this ordinance as a crucial way to take care of our wildlife. I have been a member of the Pajarito Environmental Education Center since 2005. With Michele Altherr I assisted with a children's nature club called Kinnikinnick Club. We had an intensive service project called Plastic Bag-free Los Alamos. The children worked to raise awareness about the use of plastic bags and how they hurt wildlife. The major problem is deadly entanglement. Our beautiful birds get tangled thinking it is food and become suffocated. Also, I have seen our deer get plastic bags tangled in their antlers. I see our grocery stores still use single-use plastic bags which are not recyclable. We have to discard them as trash. We live in a scientific community and we can become leaders in this change. Thank you, Selvi Viswanathan	Email
228	Kellie Kish	Los Alamos County, NM Continues To Seek Input On Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Los Alamos County is seeking community input on a proposed Single Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance currently under consideration by the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB). Get more on the ordinance> Hello, I saw this article in Waste Advantage's email newsletter. While I didn't read the article itself (sadly no time), I do want to encourage you to change the ordinance from a 'single-use' bag ban to a 'plastic carryout bag ban'. Other communities who have enacted 'single-use' bans have ended up quadrupling the amount of plastic distributed due to their definitions of a 'reusable' plastic bag – completely defeating the purpose of the ordinance in the first place. Not sure if that's something you've looked at, but wanted to take a minute to share that feedback. Thanks and let me know if you have any questions, Kellie	Email

Public Comments on Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

229	I oppose the proposed ban on single-use plastic bags. All this does is transfer the burden and cost to consumers. These bags are typically reused for residential trash, dog waste, litter boxes, lunches, etc. Consumers will now have to purchase plastic bags, for their households, and that does nothing to offset Section 2 - Purpose of the proposed ordinance. Plastic bag manufacturers have lobbied for this so they can sell other bags that do not biodegrade. Just go down the aisle at Smith's or Walmart to see the variety of bags that do not biodegrade. Will Smith's replace the current bags (low density polyethylene - LDPE) with paper or the thicker high density polyethylene (HDPE) bags? If the latter, those bags need special recycling facilities. Just ask California how well Senate Bill 270 worked for them. If paper bags are "sold" ...do these bags have handles? Smith's has barely one human checker at a time, the lines for the self checkout stretch down the aisles. Paper bags take longer to pack unless you're a pro at this. Trader Joe's and Whole Foods in SF, have human checkers that can pack the bags efficiently and quickly. And since the consumer will now have to pay for the bags, one will want to maximize the amount placed into each bag making them more cumbersome and heavier. You can carry multiple plastic bags from your car...paper bags not so much. Placing the burden on already weary and burdened consumers is just one more thing to pay for in today's economy. Thank you for your consideration.	Cognito
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Study Summary: What Each Study Concluded and Why It Supports Opposition

Study / publication	Simple conclusion	Use in argument
UK Environment Agency, 2011	HDPE plastic bags often have lower climate impacts than paper, PP, LDPE, and cotton alternatives unless those alternatives are reused enough times.	The ordinance does not require or measure enough reuse to justify a climate claim.
UNEP / Life Cycle Initiative, 2020	Single-use plastic performs poorly for litter and microplastics, but often performs well in climate, water, land-use, acidification, and eutrophication categories.	A plastic bag ban creates tradeoffs and should not be sold as an overall environmental win.
Danish EPA / DTU Environment, 2018	LDPE bags were generally lowest-impact when reuse was not considered; cotton required very high reuse counts in some impact categories.	Reusable bags can be worse if not reused enough.
RECYC-QUEBEC / CIRAIG, 2017	77.7% of conventional plastic bags discarded in garbage were reused as trash bags.	Many plastic bags are not truly single-use; banning them can force replacement plastic purchases.
Taylor, JEEM, 2019	California bag regulations reduced carryout bags but increased trash bag purchases, offsetting part of the plastic reduction.	This is direct evidence of leakage.
Washington State University, 2025	Plastic bag count fell, but plastic weight increased because allowed replacement bags were thicker.	Bag bans can reduce bag count without reducing total plastic material.

References for Submission

[1] Life Cycle Assessment of Supermarket Carrier Bags: A Review of the Bags Available in 2006

Who / when / where: Authored by Dr. Chris Edwards and Jonna Meyhoff Fry of Intertek Expert Services; commissioned and funded by the UK Environment Agency; report SC030148; PDF dated February 2011 and listed by GOV.UK as published July 25, 2011.

Simple conclusion: Thin conventional HDPE bags had low life-cycle impacts because of their low material use. Paper, LDPE, non-woven polypropylene, and cotton bags had to be reused multiple times to beat HDPE on global warming potential; the required reuse count increased when HDPE bags were reused as bin liners.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Shows that a ban only helps climate impacts if replacement bags are reused enough. It also shows many lightweight bags receive secondary reuse as bin liners, which improves their environmental performance.

Source link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-cycle-assessment-of-supermarket-carrierbags-a-review-of-the-bags-available-in-2006>

[2] Single-use Plastic Bags and Their Alternatives: Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessments

Who / when / where: Prepared by Tomas Ekvall, Christin Liptow, and Sofii Miliutenko of IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute AB; commissioned and supervised by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Life Cycle Initiative; published by UNEP in 2020.

Simple conclusion: A meta-analysis of seven LCAs found that single-use plastic bags are poor for land litter, marine litter, and microplastics, but often score well in other environmental categories. Reusable and paper alternatives only outperform if they are actually reused enough times.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Supports the argument that replacing plastic with paper, cotton, or thicker reusable bags creates environmental tradeoffs, not an automatic environmental benefit.

Source link: <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Single-use-plastic-bags-and-alternatives-Recommendations-from-LCA-final.pdf>

[3] Life Cycle Assessment of Grocery Carrier Bags

Who / when / where: Commissioned by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Miljøstyrelsen); conducted by Valentina Bisinella, Paola Federica Albizzati, Thomas Fruergaard Astrup, and Anders Damgaard of DTU Environment in October-December 2017; final report dated February 2018.

Simple conclusion: Across multiple indicators, LDPE carrier bags were generally the bag type with the lowest overall environmental impacts when reuse was not considered. Cotton and other heavy reusable bags required very high reuse counts to match LDPE in some categories.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Shows the risk that heavier reusable bags can increase environmental impacts if consumers do not reuse them many times.

Source link: <https://www2.mst.dk/udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf>

[4] Life Cycle Assessment of Grocery Bags in Quebec / Analyse du cycle de vie des sacs d'emplettes au Quebec

Who / when / where: RECYC-QUEBEC commissioned CIRAIG, the International Reference Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services, to evaluate grocery bags in Quebec; published December 2017.

Simple conclusion: The study found that 77.7% of conventional plastic shopping bags discarded in garbage were reused as trash bags; later data were nearly identical at 78.8%.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Directly challenges the term single-use and shows that banning carryout bags can eliminate a secondary use that avoids purchase of separate trash bags.

Source link: <https://ciraig.org/index.php/project/life-cycle-assessment-of-grocery-bags-in-quebec/>

[5] Bag Leakage: The Effect of Disposable Carryout Bag Regulations on Unregulated Bags

Who / when / where: Rebecca L. C. Taylor; Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Volume 93, January 2019, pages 254-271; DOI: 10.1016/j.jeem.2019.01.001.

Simple conclusion: Using California policy variation, the study found that eliminating 40 million pounds of plastic carryout bags was offset by a 12 million pound increase in trash bag purchases, and that 12-22% of carryout bags were reused as trash bags before regulation.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Shows a real-world leakage effect: carryout-bag bans can push consumers to buy other plastic bags, reducing the claimed benefit.

Source link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0095069618305291>

[6] Evaluating Washington's Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban

Who / when / where: J. Wagner and E. Jessup; Washington State University School of Economic Sciences; 2025.

Simple conclusion: Washington's ban reduced the number of plastic bags distributed by about 50%, but total plastic use by weight increased by about 17% because replacement plastic bags were thicker. The report recommended removing the thickness requirement to avoid environmental costs of thicker bags not reused enough.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Shows that a ban can reduce bag count while increasing plastic by weight, transportation impacts, and production burdens.

Source link: <https://wpcdn.web.wsu.edu/cahnrs/uploads/sites/5/Evaluating-Washingtons-Single-Use-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

[7] Life Cycle Assessment of Grocery Bags in Common Use in the United States

Who / when / where: Robert M. Kimmel, Sc.D.; Clemson University Digital Press, Environmental Studies, 2014.

Simple conclusion: A U.S.-data life-cycle assessment comparing common grocery bag types to support objective decisions about grocery bag regulation.

How it supports opposition to the ban: Provides U.S.-specific life-cycle evidence used by later policy evaluations to show that recycled paper, thicker plastic, and non-woven polypropylene bags require multiple reuses to match thin plastic bags.

Source link: https://open.clemson.edu/cudp_environment/6/

[8] Los Alamos County Draft Ordinance

Who / when / where: Incorporated County of Los Alamos draft code ordinance adding Chapter 18, Article V, banning distribution of single-use plastic carryout bags and encouraging a fee for recycled-content paper carryout bags; draft file dated May 6, 2026, provided for review.

Simple conclusion: The ordinance would ban single-use plastic carryout bags, permit recycled-content paper bags and reusable bags, and states the policy may reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel usage.

How it supports the testimony: The testimony responds to that environmental-benefit claim and argues the claim should be tested against life-cycle and consumer-behavior evidence before adoption.

Opposing the Proposed Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ban

Requested action: Vote no on the proposed ban, or table it until the County completes a local life-cycle and behavior analysis that accounts for paper bags, reusable bags, trash-bag replacement, litter, and actual reuse rates.

Context. The draft ordinance states that banning single-use plastic carryout bags and encouraging reusable bags may reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use. The evidence below supports the narrower argument that a material ban does not guarantee an environmental benefit when the replacements are paper, cotton, polypropylene, or thicker reusable plastic bags.

Public Comment Script

Councilors, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I am asking you to oppose, or at least table, the proposed ordinance banning single-use plastic carryout bags.

I support reducing litter and keeping plastic out of the environment.

The concern is that this ordinance is being presented as an environmental improvement when the life-cycle evidence does not support that conclusion if the practical replacement is paper bags or reusable bags that are not reused enough times.

The draft ordinance says the ban may reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use. That is the claim I want to focus on. A plastic bag ban can reduce the number of thin bags handed out, but that is not the same thing as reducing total environmental impact. The studies consistently show that the material, weight, and actual reuse rate of replacement bags determine whether the policy helps or hurts.

The first study is the United Kingdom Environment Agency life-cycle assessment, authored by Dr. Chris Edwards and Jonna Meyhoff Fry of Intertek Expert Services, commissioned and funded by the Environment Agency, and published by the Environment Agency in 2011. It compared conventional plastic bags with paper, thicker reusable plastic bags, non-woven polypropylene, cotton, and other alternatives. Its key conclusion was that a lightweight conventional plastic bag had very low life-cycle impacts because it uses so little material. To beat the conventional bag on global warming potential, the study found that a paper bag must be reused at least 3 times, a thicker plastic reusable bag 4 times, a non-woven polypropylene bag 11 times, and a cotton bag 131 times. When the study included the real-world fact that about 40 percent of lightweight bags were reused as bin liners, those break-even numbers rose to 4, 5, 14, and 173 uses respectively. This supports opposing the ordinance because the ordinance does not require, verify, or measure that replacement bags will be reused enough times to create a climate benefit. [1]

The second study is the United Nations Environment Programme and Life Cycle Initiative 2020 meta-analysis, prepared by Tomas Ekvall, Christin Liptow, and Sofiia Miliutenko of IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute. It reviewed seven life-cycle assessments of single-use plastic bags and alternatives. UNEP concluded that single-use plastic bags are bad for land litter, marine litter, and microplastics, but they often score well in other categories, including climate change, acidification, eutrophication, water use, and land use. UNEP also concluded that reusable bags are better only if they are actually reused enough: about 50 to 150 uses for cotton, 10 to 20 uses for durable polypropylene, 5 to 10 uses for reusable polyethylene, and 4 to 8 uses for paper. That directly supports the argument that banning the light plastic bag while pushing people to heavier bags creates environmental tradeoffs, not an automatic environmental win. [2]

The third study is the Danish Environmental Protection Agency report, commissioned by the Danish EPA and conducted by DTU Environment in 2017, with the final report published in 2018. It compared grocery carrier bags across 16 environmental indicators. It found that traditional disposable grocery bags were generally the bags with the lowest overall environmental impacts when reuse was not considered. It also found that conventional cotton bags needed at least 52 uses for zero net climate change and up to 7,100 uses across all indicators to break even; organic cotton needed at least 149 uses to reach net zero climate change and up to 20,000 uses across all indicators to break even. This matters because reusable bags are heavier and more resource-intensive up front. If consumers forget them, accumulate too many, or throw them away after limited use, the ordinance can increase rather than decrease environmental burdens. [3]

The fourth point is that the phrase "single-use" is misleading. The UK Environment Agency found that 76 percent of single-use grocery bags were reused, and 53 percent of respondents who reused bags used them as kitchen bin liners. The study calculated that 40.3 percent of all lightweight carrier bags avoided the use of separate bin liners. A Quebec study by RECYC-QUEBEC and CIRAIG in 2017 found an even higher result: 77.7 percent of conventional plastic bags discarded in the garbage were reused as trash bags, with later data showing a nearly identical 78.8 percent. That means many residents are not just using these bags once; they are using them to replace another plastic product. [1, 4]

The fifth study is Rebecca L. C. Taylor's peer-reviewed 2019 article in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management. It looked at California bag regulations and found a leakage effect: the elimination of 40 million pounds of plastic carryout bags was offset by a 12 million pound increase in trash bag purchases. Sales of small trash bags rose 120 percent, medium trash bags 64 percent, and tall trash bags 6 percent. Taylor also found that 12 to 22 percent of plastic carryout bags were reused as trash bags before regulation. This supports opposing the ban because the ordinance does not eliminate the household need for small trash liners, pet-waste bags, car trash bags, or similar uses. It simply shifts some residents from reusing grocery bags to buying replacement plastic bags. [5]

Finally, there is recent real-world evidence from Washington State University. In a 2025 evaluation, J. Wagner and E. Jessup found that Washington's bag ban reduced the number of plastic bags distributed by about 50 percent, but total plastic use by weight increased by about 17 percent because the replacement plastic bags were thicker. WSU recommended removing the plastic bag thickness requirement because reusable plastic bags were often not reused enough to offset their higher production and transportation impacts. That is a warning for Los Alamos. A policy can reduce bag count while increasing material use. [6]

My bottom line is simple: if the County wants to reduce litter, write a litter-reduction policy. If the County wants to reduce total environmental impact, then it should not ban the lowest-material bag while encouraging substitutes that require many reuses to break even. A better approach would be to improve bag recycling and drop-off options, educate residents on reuse and proper disposal, and collect local data before banning one material. Please vote no on the proposed ban, or table it until the County can show that the replacement bags will actually reduce total environmental impact.