



Colorado Retail Council / 1580 Lincoln Street, Suite 970 / Denver, CO 80203
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October 28, 2019

The Honorable Kendra Black
The Honorable Stacie Gilmore
Denver City Council

Re: City & County of Denver single-use plastic grocery bag ordinance

Dear Councilwomen:

I write today to thank you for the thoughtful discussions we have had on the topic of a new plastic bag ordinance, and to provide Council with our association's views in writing on how it will affect our operations and customers. As you know, our membership is comprised of the very largest grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores in the state, so we have a large stake in this debate. Our members operate in nearly every state in the nation, so we do have a wealth of experience with these types of ordinances and similar state laws.

First, we recommend that City Council enact an ordinance that is based on the City of Boulder's ordinance that has successfully been in place since 2013. This model is our first preference because it really works. City officials have proven the ordinance has [reduced](#) plastic bag use by nearly 70%. As I've mentioned to you both, it is our sincere hope that this model could be used as a "best practices" ordinance if other cities in Colorado were to take similar action.

It's true that [some cities - and even entire states](#) - have opted for a complete ban on single-use plastic grocery bags while placing significant fees on paper bags at the checkout stand. This is not our first preference because [paper bags](#) are: even more costly for our members to provide, require much more water to produce, are heavier to transport, can have a problematic carbon impact when manufactured, etc. For these reasons, and many others, we can't simply assume that our CRC members will even provide paper bags to customers as an option in the future. Were a paper bag fee be implemented in Denver, we would ask Council to follow the [State of Vermont](#)'s lead in allowing the retailer to keep 100% of the fee.

Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration and we look forward to working with you and city staff to find a solution to this important challenge.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Howes
President