

February 4, 2020

Sen. Jeff Bridges
Sen. Don Coram
Sen. Larry W. Crowder
Sen. Joann Ginal
Sen. Angela Williams

Dear Senate Local Government Committee,

Please accept this letter as support for local control and for Senate Bill 20-010, Repealing the Prohibition of Local Government Regulation of Plastics. Current state law (C.R.S. 25-17-104) limits local government capacity to set reasonable limits on single-use plastics in Colorado municipalities. This undermines and restricts the ability of our locally-elected institutions to respond effectively to the interests of constituents in a manner consistent with the long-term goals and values of our communities.

As one of only eleven statutory cities in Colorado, Salida relies on the delegation of the Legislature's authority to operate independently in order to serve local interests. Many residents of Salida have appealed to the City Council to begin a community dialogue about single-use plastics; however, current law stifles local debate and consideration for the needs, wants and desires of the citizens of Salida by pre-empting local control.

SB 20-010 does not restrict the use of any plastic products in Colorado, but would simply allow a city or town like Salida to have the much-needed debate as to how best to serve its residents. The State of Colorado has a long history and proud tradition of local control, yet we are currently just one of fourteen states who pre-empt local government authority on this issue.

We respectfully request your support for SB 20-010, local control and to give the elected representatives of our community the ability to discuss, debate and decide this important matter with all Solidans.

Sincerely,



Drew Nelson
City Administrator

CC: Sen. Kerry Donovan
Rep. Jim Wilson
Salida City Council
Mayor P.T. Wood



SB 20-010
SUSTAINABILITY
STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL PLASTIC PROHIBITIONS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ESTES PARK

The town of Estes Park is the gateway to the Rocky Mountain National Park, a national treasure that is home to what should be an unpolluted haven for nature-lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. In 2018 over 4.5 million visitors came to Estes Park and those visitors, while welcome, put an enormous strain on our local resources and bring with them a host of problems regarding their impact on our local environment and wildlife. As our local economy depends on the tourism industry, it is imperative that we maintain the beauty and unspoiled atmosphere for both our visitors and residents.

One way to maintain the natural beauty of Estes Park is to be able to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags that are given out daily at our local grocery and retail stores. Single-use plastic bags are a menace to the pristine natural environment that surrounds Estes Park. They become tangled in our trees and bushes, clog our rivers and streams and even get snagged in the antlers of our local wildlife. Even worse, they get into our soil and release toxic chemicals which eventually wind up killing the animals and birds that draw so many to our beautiful town.

The League of Women Voters has supported the issue of sustainability for nearly 50 years. Our local League in Estes Park has likewise been involved with this issue and has a very active Community Recycling Committee. Our members, along with hundreds of other residents of Estes Park, have long wanted to be able to decide how to curb the use of single-use plastic bags. However, current legislation prohibits us from protecting our town's fragile environment and places us at risk of losing the appeal that draws so many visitors each year. Without those visitors, Estes Park cannot sustain a thriving economy. We think our local government should have the opportunity to make the decisions that are right for our mountain community and we respectfully urge you to vote "yes" on SB 20-010.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Zornes
President
League of Women Voters of Estes Park

DRAFT 1.0

To: Honorable State Senator Kerry Donovan

From: Kathi Meyer, President Pro Tem, Steamboat Springs City Council

Date: 1/27/20

Re: Letter of Support for SB 20-010

Please read the following into the record:

Approximately 18 months ago, the Steamboat Springs City Council was approached by a citizens group comprised of members of our local Teen Council expressing concern about the proliferation of single-use plastic bags littering our local and National waterways. After several public work sessions and two readings of a local ordinance Steamboat banned single use bags from large format retailers. We provided for a 6-month implementation period with the affected retailers and worked jointly with them to provide for a public outreach and education program. The City funded this education program and purchased reusable bags that were ~~distrusted~~ distributed free to each household in our municipality. The ban went into effect October 1, 2019 with very few glitches and little public pushback.

Current state law (CRS 25—17-104) arguably limits local government from enacting reasonable and publicly supported restrictions on ~~plastic products~~ single use plastic bags at a time when environmental concerns are of paramount importance. SB200-010 does not restrict the use of any plastic products in Colorado. It simply repeals an antiquated preemption from state statute and restores the ability of local governments to make decisions consistent with the long-term goals and values of our communities.

Steamboat Springs respectfully requests a “yes” vote on SB 20-010.



January 28, 2020

Senator Kerry Donovan
200 E Colfax
RM 346
Denver, CO 80203
United States
Re: SB20-010

Dear Senator Donovan,

Over the past year, the City of Gunnison has been committed to developing its first holistic comprehensive plan since 2007. Gunnison 2030, our comprehensive plan, is a dynamic creation of extensive community involvement and resident input. The community clearly communicated that environmental sustainable ideas and practices be integrated into every part of the plan. Passing SB20-010 would provide the City of Gunnison with a powerful option for Council to use as part of our action plan to grow the community's sustainability mindset and be reflective of our environmental values and dedication to preserve and protect the natural world for all people and generations to come.

Additionally, the City of Gunnison, in collaboration with other valley partners including, Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte, and Gunnison County, hosted the Gunnison Valley Climate Action Conference on January 17, 2020. One of the pillar topics of the conference was municipal solid waste. Residents from across the Gunnison Valley are interested in being proactive and taking steps to reduce the amount of community and individual-generated municipal solid waste that goes into the landfill. Giving local municipalities the flexibility and option to prohibit plastic bags or single-use items could have an additional beneficial impact for a community.

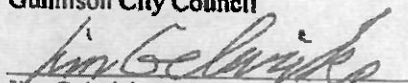
Interest in banning plastic bags is not only a desire of the adult and Western Colorado University populations, but it also has strong momentum among our youth. Gunnison's Youth City Council has expressed interest in educating residents and visitors on the harmful effects that single-use items and plastic bags have on the environment. Gunnison High School, led by a junior, recently incorporated a full recycling program into the school. Under her leadership and with the support of her peers and staff, Gunnison High School went from recycling zero percent of possible recyclable items to 100% in just one year. Students and staff were not required to recycle, but with education and the option in place, they freely choose to do so.

To reflect the community's environmental and sustainability values, Gunnison City Council supports SB20-010 and proactive goal to give municipalities the flexibility and option to prohibit single-use items and plastic bags in their community, if desired, by the removal of the current language prohibiting this option. We encourage lawmakers to provide local municipalities with as many eco-centric tools as possible.

Thank you for sponsoring SB20-010 and we encourage your colleagues to support this bill.


Respectfully,

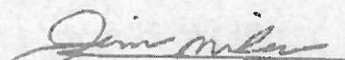
Gunnison City Council



Jim Gelwicks, Mayor

Not present at meeting

Mallory Logan, City Councilor *Clark*


Boe Freeburn, City Councilor


Jim Miles, Mayor Pro Tem


Diego Plata, City Councilor



January 31, 2020

Senate Local Government Committee
200 E Colfax RM 346
Denver, CO 80203

VOTE "YES" SB 20-010
Repeal Ban of Prohibition of Local Government Regulations of Plastics

Dear Senate Local Government Committee:

In May of 2012, the City of Aspen decided to conserve resources and to reduce waste and litter by banning the free distribution of single-use plastic bags from our local grocers. Now, nearly eight years later, and as one of the first mountain communities to adopt ambitious climate goals, the City of Aspen's commitment continues to reflect the community's understanding that a stable climate is crucial to the Aspen that we know and love. Climate action delivers direct quality of life benefits.

Our community strives to promote environmental stewardship and to lead climate action efforts throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. It is our civic responsibility to act on behalf of our constituents. Locally, we prioritize reducing greenhouse gas emissions and envision a low-carbon future for our town. This approach enables us to deliver quality programs to the Aspen community.

Currently C.R.S. §25-17-104 limits our ability to set reasonable limits on single-use plastics. We implore you to consider the repeal of the prohibition of local government regulation of plastics. Our home rule municipality believes the authority to address issues that pertain to the city must reside within.

Local governments are best suited to identify solutions to local issues, and to be the sole decision makers on which plastic products to regulate and when to do so. Please continue to advance policy that supports local government ability to protect our unique environment, conserve resources and deliver a sustainable future.

Our city is dependent on a stable climate and natural resources for a thriving economy. The State of Colorado can be proud of its tradition of local control and respect for home rule authority.

We respectfully request a "yes" vote on SB 20-010. Keep it local.

Sincerely,

Torre, Mayor

Council Members: Ward Hauenstein, Skippy Mesirow, Ann Mullins, Rachael Richards



TOWN of FRISCO

P.O. Box 4100 • Frisco, Colorado 80443

Sen. Jeff Bridges
Sen. Don Coram
Sen. Larry W. Crowder
Sen. Joann Ginal
Sen. Angela Williams

Dear Senators and Local Government Committee,

We urge your support for SB 20-010, which would provide local governments the opportunity to enact legislation to meet the needs of their community. In 2019, The Town of Frisco joined other Colorado communities and enacted legislation placing a fee on single-use bags. The Frisco Town Council's 0.25 cent per bag fee is notably one of the highest fees in the nation and was done in an effort to encourage our residents and visitors to eliminate or reduce single-use bags.

Our Town Council would like to consider enacting additional legislation to offset the negative environmental impacts from single use plastics. Our way of life in the Colorado Rockies is dependent upon the pristine natural beauty of towns like Frisco and others. It is the reason we chose to live here and it is the very reason tourists from around the world flock to the Rockies.

Protecting our natural environment has never been a higher priority than it is now. Plastic litter is an increasing problem and is commonly found in local parks, rivers and clinging to trees in the forest. Many single-use plastic products are the root cause of this litter and the root cause of our now very limited landfill space. To counteract this problem, we have a strong local stewardship ethic and recycling and waste reduction are of high importance in our communities.

We appreciate the variety of perspectives and opinions on the use of plastics and the environment. SB 20-010 allows local municipalities to enact legislation deemed best by their constituents; the bill does not prohibit the use of plastics nor does it impede a neighboring community from taking a different position.

We urge your consideration and support for SB20-010.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunter Mortensen".

Hunter Mortensen
Mayor Pro-Tem
Town of Frisco



January 30, 2020

Sen. Jeff Bridges
Sen. Don Coram
Sen. Larry W. Crowder
Sen. Joann Ginal
Sen. Angela Williams

Dear Senate Local Government Committee,

The Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) represents 40 municipalities, counties and resort associations that are largely dependent on the ski industry and tourism. CAST engages on issues of importance to its members and uses the strength of the coalition to seek support for policy or legislation that will benefit and sustain resort communities.

Every CAST member's economy is dependent on tourism, and it is the pristine natural beauty of our towns that is a major draw for visitors. Plastic litter is an increasing problem and is commonly found in local parks, rivers and clinging to trees in the forest. Due to limited landfill space and a strong local stewardship ethic, recycling and waste reduction are of high importance in these communities. Many single-use plastic products are not recyclable.

The constituents of many mountain and resort towns are challenging their elected leaders to reduce waste and non-recyclable materials. Unfortunately, current state law prohibits local leaders to respond to the wants and desires of the people that elected them.

SB 20-010 does not restrict the use of any plastic product, but simply allows a local jurisdiction to make decisions on single use plastics for the good of their community. This bill restores the ability of local governments to reduce unnecessary waste, if desired by their constituents.

We respectfully request your support for local control and for SB 20-010.

Sincerely,

Dean Brookie, CAST President & Durango Town Council

CC: Sen. Donovan
Rep. Froelich
Rep. Valdez

Colorado Association of Ski Towns * PO Box 3823, Dillon CO 80435 * CoSkiTowns.com * 970.389.4347

TOWN OF SNOWMASS VILLAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 05
SERIES OF 2020

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR COLORADO SB 20-010 STATE
PREEMPTION OF LOCAL PLASTIC PROHIBITIONS

WHEREAS, Plastic litter, especially disposable, single-use plastics (e.g. bags, food containers, straws) has become an increasing problem in Colorado's cities and towns and a cause of concern to local residents; and

WHEREAS, awareness has grown surrounding the local environmental impact of these products, a number of city councils and town boards across the state have begun taking steps to reduce or remove them from the local waste stream; and

WHEREAS, current state law (CRS 25-17-104) limits local government capacity to set reasonable limits on single-use plastics in our municipalities. This undermines the ability of our democratically-elected institutions to respond effectively to the interests of their constituents in a manner that is consistent with the long-term goals and values of their communities.

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has always embraced a proud tradition of local control and respect for Home Rule authority and yet we are one of just 14 states who preempt local government authority on this important issue.; and

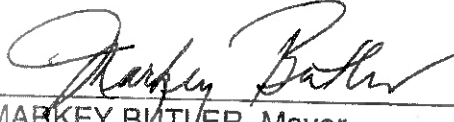
WHEREAS, SB 20-010 does not restrict the use of any plastic products in Colorado. It simply repeals an outdated preemption from state statute and restores the ability of local governments to make decisions on behalf of the general welfare of their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Snowmass Village, Colorado:

That the Town of Snowmass Village hereby respectfully requests a "yes" vote on SB 20-010 and supports this important piece of state legislation.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED as amended by the Town Council of the Town of Snowmass Village, Colorado, on the 3rd day of February 2020 with a motion made by Council Member Shenk and seconded by Council Member Madsen and by a vote of 4 in favor to 0 opposed.

TOWN OF SNOWMASS VILLAGE


MARKEY BUTLER, Mayor

ATTEST:


RHONDA B. COXON, Town Clerk