



Senate Bill: 2011-12-14

Date: February 15, 2012

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Referred to: University Affairs

Senate Action: Senate approved on 02/21/12 (votes: 20-0-0)

Title: Resolution restricting the distribution of single-use plastic bags on campus

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students is the primary advocate for students at California State University, Northridge and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning-focused campus environment
2. WHEREAS: Californians use an estimated 19 billion plastic bags per year¹; and
3. WHEREAS: Only five percent of these bags are actually recycled. The rest end up in landfills or as litter²; and
4. WHEREAS: Los Angeles, along with other municipalities statewide, spends more than \$25 million of tax payers money each year to clean up plastic single-use bags from public places, storm drains, and from our waste stream³; and
5. WHEREAS: There are countless environmental damages such as significant use of natural resources for bag production, increased wildlife fatalities from strangulation and suffocation, negative impacts on water quality, and-most salient for our Los Angeles economy-cleaner beaches; and
6. WHEREAS: Plastic never biodegrades for any intent or purpose; but they slowly photo degrades. As it photo degrades, it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces which attract surrounding toxins⁴; and

¹ 3 Zero Waste California, "Recycle Plastic Grocery Bags: Paper or Plastic?", Zero Waste California, <http://zerowaste.ca.gov/PlasticBags/default.htm>, (November 15 2007)

² California Integrated Waste Management Board www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Igcentral/basics/plasticbag.htm

³ California Integrated Waste Management Board www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Igcentral/basics/plasticbag.htm

⁴ <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/270/>

7. WHEREAS: Plastic marine pollution is a global problem with a local solution; and
8. WHEREAS: CSUN can be one of the leaders in taking action against the single use plastic bags among universities nationwide; therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students stop using single-use plastic bags in any activity related to them; and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: The Environmental Affairs Committee takes the lead in educating the students and increase the general knowledge about the negative impacts of single-use plastic bags on environment through a comprehensive campaign
3. RESOLVED: The Associated Students would like to respectfully urge the University Corporation to restrict the distribution of single-use plastic bags on all the convenience stores and food services except the franchises; and let it be further
4. RESOLVED: The Associated Students would like to respectfully urge the Follett Higher Education Group to restrict the distribution of single-use plastic bags at Matador Bookstore; and let it be further
5. RESOLVED: In support, AS will provide free reusable bags for a 3-year period; and let it be further
6. RESOLVED: A.S supports the purchase of Reusable Bags as an alternative to plastic bags; and let it be finally
7. RESOLVED: That the copies of this resolution be sent to:
The University Corporation
Institute for Sustainability
A.S Recycle Program
Matador Bookstore
Dr. William Watkins
Daily Sundial

Amanda Flavin
President, 2011-2012

Sydni Powell
Vice President, 2011-2012