

THOMAS G. BRADFORD
44 CHESTNUT TRAIL
TEQUESTA, FL 33469
(561) 744-7640 | tgbradford3@gmail.com

November 22, 2019

To the Attention of Elected Florida Municipal Officials:

Re: Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Supporting Efforts to Remove State Statute Preemptions of Local Law Relating to Regulation of Auxiliary Containers, Wrappings or Plastic Bags or Use or Sale of Polystyrene; A Home Rule Issue

Dear Elected Municipal Official:

By way of introduction, I am the former manager of Tequesta and Palm Beach. Today, I serve as a volunteer on the Tequesta Environmental Advisory Committee. However, I am writing to you today as a private citizen and not in any official capacity.

As a native Floridian, I have witnessed the growth of this state and its transition from a largely agricultural economy to primarily a service sector economy with ever expanding urbanization and a decreasing interconnectedness between man and the environment in which we live, work and play. This results in many environmental problems for the air, the land and our waters. All one has to do is walk the tideline and you will see that our oceans and waterways have become a human dumping ground, particularly for plastics that either do not breakdown or are slow in doing so. Single-use and other plastic products create unique problems for landfill management and marine life. It is time Florida localities, particularly Florida coastal communities, have the right to regulate these materials that create these problems should they so choose. Our new Governor has stated he is of this same opinion. This is a Florida Home Rule issue of significance.

The content of the attached resolution was approved by the Palm Beach Town Council on October 10 and is being distributed around the state and can easily be amended to fit the resolution format of your community. It enumerates many of the problems of various plastic products. The resolution urges our Florida Legislators to support the adoption of SB 182, which, if adopted, will give local government the ability to regulate these materials to help begin the process of restoring the integrity of our waters and help protect the marine life affected by said materials. If SB 182 is signed into law each community can decide to do so or not. The following link will take you to SB 182 for your review: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/182/BillText/Filed/PDF>

Will you consider pursuing adoption of a similar resolution by your governing board? If you do so, could you also send a copy to the Governor, the state legislators serving your municipality, the other municipalities in your area and a copy to me for tracking purposes in order to help build momentum for this important cause? If your community has already issued a resolution on this matter, a reminder letter to your local legislative delegation of your position on preemption of local law in regard to plastics detrimental to our environment and marine life may prove to be important in the 2020 Legislative Session. Your time and efforts in this regard are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Bradford

Enclosures: TPB Res. No. 122-2019