



**RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF
RETAIL PLASTIC BAGS IN TRAVERSE CITY**

1. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, plastic bags were first introduced in 1977 and now account for four out of every five bags handed out at grocery stores.
2. According to data compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2001, somewhere between 500 billion and one trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year.
3. Plastic bags are made from polyethylene, which is made from oil.
4. Polyethylene can degrade in the environment into potentially harmful byproducts.
5. Plastic bags are also a significant source of litter, both in aquatic and terrestrial environments, where they present a hazard to wildlife.
6. According to a 2007 article in the Christian Science Monitor, less than 1% of plastic bags are recycled because it costs more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one.
7. Traverse City has a long history of environmental stewardship. Our residents, businesses and visitors expect their elected officials to keep public property free from litter and to preserve our natural resources, especially Grand Traverse Bay.
8. The Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council has taken a principal role in educating the City Commission and the community about the negative impacts of plastic bags.
9. Some retailers within the city, including Tom's Food Markets, Glen's Market, Oryana Natural Foods, and the Downtown Traverse City Association, are already taking voluntary steps to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags. These steps include the promotion and sale of reusable shopping bags.
10. The City Commission should do everything it can to encourage this kind of private sector leadership.

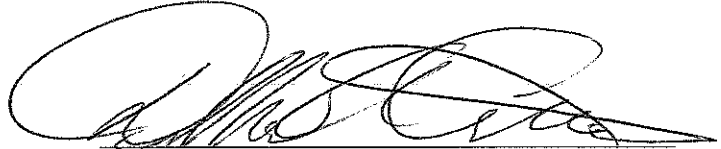
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Retail Plastic Bags in Traverse City)

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For these reasons, the City Commission encourages businesses within Traverse City to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags in their establishments. The City Commission also encourages residents and visitors who shop within the city to reduce or discontinue the use of plastic bags while shopping.

Finally, the City Commission encourages city staff to take whatever steps are practical to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags in city operations.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution
Was adopted by the Traverse City City
Commission at its regular meeting held on
September 15, 2008, in the Commission
Chambers of the Governmental Center, 400
Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, MI.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra A. Curtiss', written over a horizontal line.

Debra A. Curtiss, MMC, City Clerk