



MASSACHUSETTS
**SIERRA
CLUB**

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Dear Wellesley Town Meeting Members:

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club has been actively supporting efforts to curb the use of single-use polyethylene bags at the state and local levels. Such restrictions are part of a campaign to reduce unnecessary plastic waste and ultimately achieve zero waste.

The Massachusetts Sierra Club strongly endorses Articles 33. Nineteen municipalities across the State have already passed laws to restrict plastic bags including neighboring Newton, Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville. This proposal incorporates the best of similar legislation from around the Commonwealth and the country.

Plastic bags are composed of petrochemicals derived from non-renewable, fracked natural gas and oil. Wellesley residents use an estimated 9 million polyethylene shopping bags per year. Bags are not recycled conveniently or in a closed loop fashion. People typically return bags at a rate of only 5%. Eliminating such non-biodegradable packaging will not only reduce waste, it will also beautify the Town by reducing the unsightly and ultimately permanent litter that these plastic products have caused. As litter, bags can be carried by rivers and harm animals every step of the way from the Charles River to the Atlantic Ocean.

The proposed by-law allows alternatives that are highly reusable and/or made of natural, biodegradable and renewable materials. Moving to better packaging will enhance the sustainability of Wellesley's retail economy.

We urge you to vote favorable action on Article 33.

Respectfully,

Emily Norton,
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