

Public Comment Received January 25, 2010  
For Commission Meeting on January 26, 2010

On Tuesday you'll take up weather certain stores must give back/credit  
10 cents per used by customers

Let's make it so every store has to do this

so, everyone will always want to take a bag to any store

incentive should be shop everywhere

or just not pass the the ordinance

also if we don't make an even playing field I feel forcing merchants to  
give credits may just mean higher prices at the register

and we will all be paying more money to pay for the credit

why should we penalized for doing the right thing

ed florence

To: Commission on the Environment

Commissioners,

I support the proposal to offer a rebate to customers who bring their own bags to retail outlets. I have supported the ban on plastic bags since it was introduced, but there is a lot more that we can do.

I regularly shop at Trader Joe's. Some customers bring their own bags, but for the most part, paper bags are provided. Despite Trader Joe's stated policy of single bagging, clerks typically double bag every load of groceries. I have seen this at both the Trader Joe's on Masonic and the one south of Market. When I complain about this to the store managers and to the clerks, the only response I get is that, "the customers ask for it." I have not witnessed this customer request, so it seems that the stores are not interested in limiting the use of paper bags or worried about their own costs associated with them.

When I was working with the SPUR Sustainable Development Committee, we supported the ban on plastic bags. At the time, we heard many objections from the grocery industry about the hardship and problems that the plastic bag legislation would cause. Well, the legislation passed, and it seems that everyone had adapted to it very easily.

This legislation is a necessary step to limiting waste and preserving our resources. I hope that you will support it.

Sincerely,

Katherine Howard  
Past Chair  
SPUR Sustainable Development Committee  
(writing here as an individual)

cc: Supervisor Mirkarimi