

## Lopez, Donna

---

**From:** Julie Croston [juliecroston@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 01, 2015 12:50 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Regarding the Plastic Bag Ban: Please relay to city councillors

Esteemed Cambridge City Councillors:

I'm writing to ask the council to support the Plastic Bag Ordinance on February 11th.

I am also writing specifically to ask you to **vote against amendment No. 4 and amendment No. 5** that are laid out in the memo dated January 26th, 2015, from Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner for Public Works, to Richard C. Rossi, City Manager. I believe the other proposed amendments are within reason.

I applaud the hard work and ethical considerations that have gone into drafting the new amendments. I believe Cambridge, along with Newton and a few other cities, will be acknowledged as having taken pioneering and firm steps toward long-term protection of natural resources—especially but not limited to marine habitats if the original Plastic Bag Ordinance passes. Your vote for the Plastic Bag Ordinance, and rejection of proposed amendments four and five, will be part of a groundswell of a new kind of municipal stewardship. I hope you'll choose to give the Plastic Bag Ordinance its teeth

Amendment Four would exempt takeout food and leftover food from the requirement for reusable bags. Takeout and leftover food is usually in a (non-bag) paper or plastic container; the extra plastic in the bag is overkill and the level of convenience offered by the bag is negligible.

Amendment Five would allow much thinner bags to be considered "reusable" and therefore not banned from free distribution at checkout. It strikes me that this amendment will effectively nullify any significant effects of the ban on pollution.

It is a false and facile dichotomy that is sometimes made between "environmentalism" and concern for citizens—especially those in economic distress. I suggest you consider that retail business owners and their employees, as well as the consumers of retail establishments, can all be part of the solution together. If a plastic bag ban is passed, but rendered toothless through amendments such as #4 and #5 on account of projected financial harm, the medium- and long-term consequences of ineffective action on plastics pollution will impose their own high costs on all of us—among other ways, through collateral damage on human health. Please give Cambridge's plastic bag ban some teeth!

Julie Croston  
Chilton St.