

Mayor John Handeland
City Council Members
c/o Bryant Hammond
Council Chambers City Hall
102 Chambers Street
Nome, AK 99762

December 19, 2023

Dear City Council of Nome and Mayor Handeland,

On behalf of the Village of Solomon tribe, I am writing to support the plastic bag ban for the City of Nome in an effort to reduce plastic pollution within the Bering Strait Region. The Village of Solomon is proposing the City of Nome to adopt the 'Ban the Bag' campaign as a new City ordinance to eliminate plastic grocery bags in order to mitigate the high demand for plastic generation.


Not only have the entire states of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont banned single use plastic bags, but so have the cities of Hooper Bay, Unalaska, Seward, Homer, Wasilla, Palmer, Bethel, Kodiak, Unalakleet, Brevig Mission, St. Michael, Anchorage and Fairbanks. Altogether, over 400 U.S. cities have banned single use plastic bags.

The suggested proposal from extensive research within other rural cities is to ban single use plastic bags meaning, local businesses would be required to only distribute paper bags or the consumer would bring their own reusable bags, but they would have at least one year before the ban takes effect for local businesses to transition i.e. local restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, etc.

VOS has applied for an ANTHC Solid Waste grant to hire an intern in order to relaunch the Ban the Bag campaign. We have been able to distribute new reusable totes with information to provide to the community in raising awareness about the detrimental non-biodegradable plastic pollution within our coastal community. As a community and region that relies on subsistence, the importance of shedding light on such a ban, is to protect the future generations of subsistence culture.



Please do not hesitate to reach out to Environmental Coordinator, Deilah Johnson at the Village of Solomon office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.



Deilah Johnson

12/20/2023

Date