



August 1, 2008

The Honorable David A. Paterson,
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

Currently before you is a bill that would establish statewide requirements for plastic bag recycling that would override the stronger New York City Plastic Carryout Bag Recycling Law (Local Law 1 of 2008). The InterDependence Project (the I.D. Project) joins Christine Quinn and other New York City Council Members, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund in urging the Governor to support amendments to the bill that would exempt New York City from the state legislation and allow the stronger city statute to remain in effect.

While the state bill, S.8643-A/A.11725, would make progress towards reducing the environmental impact of plastic bag use by creating a statewide standard for recycling, it would be a step backwards for New York City. The state legislation applies to individual stores that are greater than 10,000 square feet in size or to chain stores that are 5,000 square feet or more.

Comparatively, New York City's law has narrower requirements that includes all stores over 5,000 square feet or that have five or more locations. Additionally, New York City's recycling law applies to a larger variety of plastic bags and also places greater responsibility on the plastic bag manufacturers, instead of the retail store, to make sure that the plastic bags are recycled.

Enclosed is a petition, part of our grassroots *Back to the Sack!* effort, with over 400 signatures representing New Yorkers who are deeply concerned about this issue. Please take a moment to read their messages and honor their wishes. As one petitioner writes, "Keep our more progressive bill working in NYC!"

To find out more about The Interdependence Project and the Integral Activism Group's efforts to decrease use of plastic bags in our neighborhood, as a strategy to improve our local, national and global environment, please visit us online at: <http://theidproject.com/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I.O.P." in a stylized, cursive font.

The Integral Activism Group of the Interdependence Project

Enclosures

cc: State Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney
State Senator Carl L. Marcellino