**Resolution Recommending State Action for New Jersey’s Comprehensive Bag Policy (Model ONLY)**

Governor Murphy vetoed the plastic bag bill while calling the issue of plastic pollution a “critical policy area.” Plastics are a major threat to our food and drinking water supplies. The fix is simple, our legislative representatives must put forth a robust bill that bans single use carry-out bags and promotes the use of reusable bags. The language for this bill is already written and there’s a dire need to act swiftly to protect all of NJ’s residents.

WHEREAS, on average, one person uses 500 single-use disposable bags per year, 4 billion single use shopping bags are used annually in New Jersey and 102 billion are used nationwide; and,

WHEREAS, windblown plastic bags degrade our land and waterways, and 80% of the plastic and trash that finds its way into our oceans comes from the land; and,

WHEREAS, 12 million barrels of oil are used annually to make the plastic bags that Americans use; and,

WHEREAS, according to EPA, seabirds, fish, and other marine and land-based animals mistake plastic for food, while others can become entangled in the trash, leading to exhaustion, starvation, and eventual death; and,

WHEREAS, plastic breaks down into microplastics that measure 5 millimeters or less, which are ingested by shrimp, plankton, fish, birds, turtles, and other sea animals. Microplastics absorb toxic chemicals, harms marine life, and can be consumed by humans via seafood and potable water; and,

WHEREAS, it is beyond dispute that the use of single-use, plastic carryout bags has a severe and negative environmental impact on the local and global environment as a result of the greenhouse gas emissions emitted to produce such bags, the land-based and ocean-based pollution created, the hazards posed to wildlife, the hazards posed to sources of water for humans, and the negative impact on the ecosystem and food chain as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, very few single-use carryout bags are actually recycled (it is estimated that less than 5% of all plastic bags are actually recycled and some estimates are as low as 1%); and,

WHEREAS, plastic in our environment is not only a major threat to our food and drinking water supplies but also threatens our $44 billion coastal economy and the 838,000 workers employed in the fishing and tourism industries.

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_taxpayers currently bear the costs associated with the negative effects of plastic, single-use carryout bags on the solid waste stream, drainage, litter, and the negative consequences of the foregoing environmental impacts; and,

THEREFORE, the municipality of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, resolve to urge Governor Murphy and NJ Legislature to act quickly to protect all NJ’s residents by passing state wide legislation banning single use plastic bags and promoting the use of reusable bags.

Agenda and date voted : xx/xx/2018 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please send signed copy to your legislative representatives, Governor Murphy, Senator Smith and Assemblywoman Pinkin, ANJEC