



## Legislation Text

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180743  
SUBSTITUTE 1

ALD. JOHNSON

Substitute resolution commending The Kroger Company for moving toward the permanent elimination of plastic shopping bags.

This resolution commends The Kroger Company, the parent company for Pick 'n Save, Metro Market and Copps stores, for taking a sustainable and environmentally-friendly stance by choosing to voluntarily phase out the use of plastic bags at its stores by 2025.

Whereas, Each year, more than 4 million tons of plastic bags, sacks and wraps are generated in the United States, with the average U.S. family bringing home more than 1,500 plastic shopping bags per year; and

Whereas, It takes 500 or more years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill, where plastic bags break down into microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment; and

Whereas, Many municipal recycling facilities, including the City of Milwaukee's, cannot recycle plastic bags, and instead recommend that consumers return used plastic bags back to retailers for recycling, where available, leading to less than 1% of plastic bags being recycled annually; and

Whereas, The Kroger Company (Kroger) which operates Pick 'n Save, Metro Market and Copps stores in Milwaukee, serves over 9 million customers annually in two dozen different grocery store chains across 35 states; and

Whereas, Kroger orders about 6 billion plastic bags for its customers each year; and

Whereas, Kroger recently announced plans to voluntarily phase out the use of plastic bags at its stores by 2025; and

Whereas, In eliminating plastic bags, Kroger is taking an important step toward operating in a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly manner; and

Whereas, Kroger's actions are especially noteworthy given that in 2016, Wisconsin lawmakers enacted legislation to prevent local municipalities, including Milwaukee, from regulating the use of plastic bags at stores like those operated by Kroger; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that The Kroger Company, the parent company for Pick 'n Save, Metro Market and Copps stores, is commended for taking a sustainable and environmentally-friendly stance by choosing to voluntarily phase out plastic bags at its stores.

LRB172042-2  
Dana J. Zelazny  
September 5, 2018