



RUSA Bill S19-01

Authors: Dominique Little, Andrew Petryna, April Nicklaus, and Nicholas LaBelle

Sponsor: University Affairs Committee

Bill to Support the Ban the Bag Initiative

Whereas, the effects of plastic bag use devastate marine ecosystems, endanger animal life, and create a larger greenhouse impact compared to the effects resulting from reusable bag use,¹

Whereas, in New Jersey, contaminants of phthalates and Bisphenol A (BPA) have been found in several NJ counties, leading to crop reduction,²

Whereas, the State of New Jersey uses more than 4.4 billion plastic bags annually,³

Whereas, over a dozen municipalities in New Jersey have already banned the sale of single-use plastic bags and created alternative incentives for eco-friendly bags,⁴

Whereas, legislative bans on single-use plastic bags have been proven to be a statistically significant method of reducing their use and facilitating the implementation of new environmentally friendly initiatives,⁵

Whereas, numerous U.S. cities and states have already introduced similar bans on plastic bags to reduce their use and environmental impact,⁶

Whereas, various other Big Ten schools have implemented or considered similar measures in their cafes and through their takeout services; Minnesota, in particular, created a student-division of biodegradable packaging,^{7 8 9}

¹ <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/plastic-bag-ban/environmental-impacts>

² <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/plastic-planet-how-tiny-plastic-particles-are-polluting-our-soil>

³ https://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/10/plastic_bags_are_piling_up_this_plan_will_force_us.html

⁴ <http://nj1015.com/more-places-in-nj-banning-plastic-bags-in-2019-is-your-town-next/>

⁵ <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1082&context=socssp>

⁶ https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/cua_plastic_bag_usage_around_world_august-2015.pdf

⁷ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-updates/3936>

⁸ https://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_8bf453e0-5ead-5a88-ba61-cbc509b59e75.html

⁹ <http://btn.com/2016/09/10/minnesotas-biodegradable-bags-make-grocery-shopping-more-green-btn-livebig/>

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) has served as a sponsor for the Cupanion reusable bottle initiative in which reusable bottles were provided to all students with a meal plan since Spring 2017,¹⁰

Whereas, the initial purchase will cost \$25,000 for 25,000 bags,

Whereas, each Rutgers-New Brunswick student with a meal plan would automatically be issued one reusable bag at the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester,

Whereas, the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) Student Chapters has pledged to contribute \$5,000 to this initiative,

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly allocates up to \$5,000 from the general committee budget through the University Affairs Committee towards the Rutgers Reusable Bag Program for the year 2019.

RUSA President

Date

¹⁰ RUSA Bill F17-2

<http://ruassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bill%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8Bto%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BSupport%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BCupanion%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BREusable%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BBottle%E2%80%8B-%E2%80%8BInitiative.pdf>