

Mayor

Kwasi A. Fraser

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(revised 1/25/22)

January 25, 2022

Chair Randall and Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Loudoun County Government Center
1 Harrison Street SE # 5
Leesburg, VA 20175

Re: New County Tax of Five Cents per Single-use Plastic Bag

Dear Chair Randal and Loudoun County Supervisors:

We thank you for your continued service to Purcellville and Western Loudoun County.

With the recent vote to impose a new tax of five cents per single-use plastic bag on shoppers across the County we believe it is important for the Town of Purcellville make known its interest. Our primary interest revolves around ensuring equitable application of collected revenue. In this case, given the mechanics of Virginia Code 58.1-1745, this interest ultimately goes to us advocating for equitable County appropriation of funds for permitted uses.

Since this County tax will fall on grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores within the Town of Purcellville serving both the Town and Western Loudoun County we believe it is essential the appropriation of collected tax correspond to the immediate interests of the served community. For the Town of Purcellville and neighboring communities these interests are:

1. Local environmental cleanup
2. Education programs designed to reduce environmental waste
3. Mitigating pollution and litter
4. Providing reusable bags to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) benefits

We recognize the Commonwealth statute does not allow towns to collect the tax, nor does it allow the County to allocate any share of revenue to the towns which is why we want to be on record early with our advocacy for equitable appropriation to address local needs for permitted purposes. We believe when levying and collecting a new tax it is essential to understand not only the

purposes for which it is collected but also how that revenue will be appropriated equitably. One might think a needs-based approach to be a reasoned mechanism for appropriation, however in the public domain that approach must be balanced with a locality-interest consideration. In other words, the benefits of the tax must be equitably shared for it to be sustainable. In short, it is reasonable to expect to see tax payer dollars at work in each locality according to the proportion of revenue collected from each locality.

In short, we are interested in the fair and equitable appropriation of collected revenue. This point should not be underestimated as ostensibly, taxes are levied to address a collective need which in this case is environmentally based. The appropriation of collected revenue must be needs-based with a locality perspective. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure both Purcellville and its Western Loudoun County neighbors' environmental interests are served when it comes time to appropriate tax payer dollars for permitted uses.

Sincerely,

Kwasi Fraser
Mayor, Purcellville, Virginia, USA

cc: Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator