

Ms. Carolyn Coleman
Executive Director
California League of Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Ms. Coleman,

On behalf of California grocers and retailers, we write with a request to communicate with your membership a policy request regarding carryout bags. The issue is to ensure consistency with the suspension of carryout bag law in order to protect our employees and customers.

On April 23, Governor Newsom released an executive order that includes a temporary suspension of the state carryout bag law for stores identified in Public Resources Code section 42283. The order does not apply to local jurisdictions with ordinances grandfathered by state law, which are ordinances in effect before January 1, 2015.

For the safety of our employees and consumers the grocery and retail industry are asking all local governments to mirror the Governor's order and to temporarily suspend their carryout bag law for at least 60-days.

Before the State Order, several counties have prevented customers from bringing any reusable item, including bags, into stores. The reasoning is both state and local public health officials are working to limit the potential for further contamination of high-use areas in stores, like checkout stations, for the health of employees and consumers.

Unfortunately, a simple prohibition on consumers bringing reusable bags for use leaves businesses under mandates requiring they continue to charge for bags with no other no-cost bag options for consumers. It is also becoming increasingly more difficult to source California specific bags due reduced manufacturing and overburdened supply chains. To avoid a scenario where consumers only have forced-to-pay options to use carryout bags we respectfully ask for full suspension of the ordinances.

We hope you will agree taking every reasonable effort identified by state and local public health officials to limit the spread of COVID-19 should be taken. In order to support increased safety of employees and customers please consider sharing with your membership our request that cities with grandfathered carryout bag ordinances should suspend their carryout bag law for at least 60-days.

We want to be clear that CGA and CRA strongly encourage a return to full implementation of state and local carryout bag laws as soon as determined to be appropriate by public health officials and the state.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with California cities.

Sincerely,



Tim James
California Grocers Association



Steve McCarthy
California Retailers Association