Petition for Plastic Reduction

I support a City of San Diego ordinance mandating the reduction of single-use plastic bags and a fee on single-use paper bags at retail locations.

Californians use more than **19 billion plastic grocery bags** and merchandise bags each year. This usage generates 147,038 tons of unnecessary waste and besides fouling our public spaces with unsightly debris - plastic bags easily find their way to the marine environment through the storm drain system. In San Diego County alone, **9,316 plastic bags** were removed during monthly beach cleanups and during California Coastal Cleanup Day in 2007.

Plastic bags cause serious health and environmental risks. In the marine environment, plastic bags are mistaken for food or prey by seabirds, marine mammals, fish and sea turtles. Annually, **one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed** through entanglement and ingestion of marine debris, such as plastic bags. Currently there is an area in the Pacific Ocean where plastic outweighs zooplankton (A fundamental base of our food chain) by a **46 to 1 ratio**.

The plastic ingested not only harms marine life, it poses human health risks because plastic also adsorbs pollutants like PCBs and pesticides like DDT, which accumulate in the tissues of marine organisms and find their way into the foods we eat.

Name	Address	Email	Signature