



PO Box 24364, Santa Fe, NM 87502, 575-224-2630

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January 25, 2019

Dear City of Albuquerque City Councilors,

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition is a statewide, member supported nonprofit organization that has been inspiring New Mexicans to reduce, reuse and recycle since 1991. Our nearly 250 members represent rural and urban municipalities, federal tribes and pueblos, institutes of higher education, businesses, county governments and state agencies.

**We are writing to urge you to support Albuquerque Clean and Green Retail Ordinance-19-48, for the following reasons:**

Whereas, plastic bags clog equipment and are a nuisance item at the Friedman Recycling Company's Material Recovery Facility, which handles the City's recyclables; and

Whereas, plastic straws are not recyclable anywhere in our state; and

Whereas, it is not currently possible for the public to recycle Styrofoam containers anywhere in our state; and

Whereas, given the current global recycling challenges, it is imperative that Albuquerque produce recyclable commodities that are not contaminated with unwanted items, such as straws or plastic bags; and

Whereas, within the reduce, reuse and recycle hierarchy, this effort is part of the first tier of reduction; and

Whereas, plastic materials that are not recycled or handled properly, such as straws, Styrofoam, and plastic bags, pose a threat to the natural beauty and environment of not only New Mexico, but the global community;

Whereas, as our state's largest city, Albuquerque is poised to set a statewide example of reducing and reusing; and

Therefore, we support restricting the distribution of single use plastic bags, straws and foam containers in Albuquerque and to encourage customers to bring their own reusable items, and to recycle or compost the alternative retail items, as required by the ordinance. This sort of common-sense legislation demonstrates Albuquerque's willingness to proactively reduce plastic pollution.

Sincerely,

Sarah Pierpont  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Recycling Coalition  
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