

1 FNSB SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

2  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 01

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5 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 81, AN ACT PROHIBITING DISPOSABLE PLASTIC  
6 SHOPPING BAGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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8 WHEREAS, HB 81 has been introduced in the Alaska Legislature; and

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10 WHEREAS, Resolution 2019-19 supporting HB 81 has been introduced and  
11 considered by the FNSB Assembly; and

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13 WHEREAS, The Assembly has referred the Resolution to the Sustainability  
14 Commission for comment; and

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16 WHEREAS, The FNSB Sustainability Plan has a waste reduction goal to  
17 divert 10% of waste by weight from the landfill by 2028; and

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19 WHEREAS, There is ample evidence of the harm done by certain plastics in  
20 the environment, including plastic bags, for example:

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- 22 • At the current rate of production, by 2050 there will be more total plastic in the  
23 ocean than fish and it takes up to 1,000 years for a plastic bag to break down in  
24 the environment,
  - 25 • Wildlife mistake plastic bags for food, killing 1 million birds and 100,000 marine  
26 animals per year; and

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28 WHEREAS, While it may take more energy to make a reusable bag, it is  
29 feasible to choose a reusable bag that may be used enough to outweigh the difference  
30 in energy cost, and the environmental impact to the land, waterways, and oceans can be  
31 much less for reusable bags compared to single-use bags; and

32 WHEREAS, Many states (California, New York, and Hawaii), counties (27),  
33 and municipalities (320, including Anchorage, Unalaska, Palmer, Wasilla, Cordova,  
34 Hooper Bay, and Bethel) have adopted plastic bag bans and businesses like Kroger, the  
35 largest grocery chain in US, have decided to eliminate single-use plastic bags by 2025;  
36 and

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38 WHEREAS, While plastic bags are only part of the problem, they are a good  
39 place to start in solving the problem of single-use plastics harming the environment and  
40 developing consumer awareness of the problem; and

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42 WHEREAS, The Commission supports the plastic bag ban but recognizes all  
43 plastic waste, specifically single use plastic waste, as a problem in our community that  
44 should be addressed; and

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46 WHEREAS, The Commission recommends a phased approach to a plastic  
47 bag ban; and

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49 WHEREAS, The Commission encourages the Assembly to support positive  
50 incentives to use reusable bags and non-plastic bags that are recyclable in Fairbanks; and

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52 WHEREAS, The Commission urges the Assembly to support other waste  
53 reduction efforts, such as addressing food waste which represents approximately 40% of  
54 the solid waste stream and revisiting the FNSB Solid Waste Collection District fee structure  
55 as it disincentivizes waste reduction efforts.

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57 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission of  
58 the Fairbanks North Star Borough recommends that the FNSB Assembly support HB 81.

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60 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 29 DAY OF May, 2019.

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Brett Parks  
Chair