

January 3, 2020

PLASTIC FREE FLORIDA (PFF)

Public Unity Commitment to Return Home Rule of Single Use Plastic To Municipal Control

Greetings!

In 2008 Publix through the façade of the Florida Retail Federation, paid to have preemptive laws sponsored to prevent municipalities from controlling how plastic should be distributed in their communities. The move was a classic example, that “Pollution is typically an issue of convenience”. It was more convenient for Publix to hand out plastic bags for customer convenience, than alternative methods. In doing so Publix stole “Home Rule” from our municipal oversight and have prevented aware communities of conscious from taking action to protect public health and essential environmental protection.

The FDEP, as a requirement of the 2008 laws, provided an objective report that endorsed a comprehensive program that would eliminate the retail distribution of Single Use Plastic (SUP). The legislature failed to act on these recommendations and left the laws as is, preventing communities from executing protective measures that are no more difficult than adopting now common shopping practices where people bring their own bags.

As a municipal elected official, I support the removal of all FL laws that impede local governments from regulating the use of Single Use Plastic, typically distributed as a retail outlet convenience. In this regard we support the passing of SB-182 which effective repeals the subject laws and returns Home Rule rightfully to local municipalities.

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/182>

Barry Wray
Executive Director
support@fkec.org