

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION ENDORSING STATE AND MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS, REUSABLE PLASTICS, AND POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

RESOLUTION 2019 - _____

WHEREAS Pennsylvania Second Class Township Boards of Supervisors are charged with the responsibility to ensure the sound health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the township. (Article VI, Section 602, Act of May. 1, 1933, P.L. 103, No. 69, Second Class Township Code);

WHEREAS Pennsylvania Second Class Township Boards of Supervisors are authorized to make and adopt ordinances, bylaws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with or restrained by the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth necessary and proper for the health and welfare of the township and its citizens. (Article XV, Section 1506, Act of May. 1, 1933, P.L. 103, No. 69, Second Class Township Code);

WHEREAS on June 28, 2019, Governor Wolf signed into law PA Senate Bill 712, which includes the following clause "...The Independent Fiscal Office shall evaluate the economic impact to the Commonwealth, its industry partners and consumers for any regulation impacting single-use plastics, reusable plastics, auxiliary containers, wrappings or polystyrene containers and submit a full report of its findings to the General Assembly no later than July 1, 2020." (Sub article I/Recycling Fund, Section 1706-E, (a), Senate Bill No. 712, Session of 2019, Printer's no. 1085);

WHEREAS, PA Senate Bill 712 also restricts local governmental bodies from enacting any ordinance or regulation that relates to the use, disposition, sale, prohibition or restriction of single-use plastics, reusable plastics, auxiliary containers, wrappings or polystyrene containers during the referenced interim period;

WHEREAS Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." (Environmental Rights Amendment (ERA), (Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution);

WHEREAS, there is a preponderance of research indicating concern for potential effects of use and disposal of plastic materials upon human health;

WHEREAS, use and distribution of single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene cups and polystyrene food containers have a negative impact on the natural environment in Solebury Township;

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene food containers have the potential to pollute the environment, harm wildlife and natural landscapes, clog storm drains and drainage systems, and enter into the waters of the Commonwealth creating further damage to aquatic life and ecosystems;

WHEREAS, plastic film from single-use plastic bags bind and clog sorting equipment and become an operational and financial burden on recycling facilities and polystyrene containers do not biodegrade;

WHEREAS, reusable bags and containers and paper straws are readily available alternative to single-use plastic bags, polystyrene food containers and plastic straws and are both cost effective and help to preserve the natural environment;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the residents of Solebury Township to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and plastic straws and polystyrene food containers to protect the public health and natural environment of the surrounding area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors endorses the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacting a law which regulates and reduces the use of single-use plastics, reusable plastics, auxiliary containers, wrappings or polystyrene containers state-wide and/or which permits municipalities to regulate such materials.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED and APPROVED, on the 16th day of July, 2019, at a regular public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township.

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Mark Baum Baicker, Chair

John Francis, Vice-Chair

Noel Barrett, Member

Robert A. McEwan, Member

Kevin Morrissey, Member

Attest:

Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

Date: _____