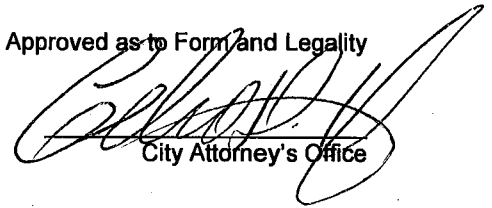


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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 54 (ALLEN/SKINNER) THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY TO ADOPT REGULATIONS TO SOURCE REDUCE AND RECYCLE AT LEAST 75% OF SINGLE-USE PACKAGING AND PRODUCTS SOLD OR DISTRIBUTED IN CALIFORNIA BY 2030 AND REQUIRE MANUFACTURERS OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TO DEMONSTRATE CERTAIN RECYCLING RATES BY 2022 AND 2026.

WHEREAS, annual global production of plastic has reached 335 million tons and continues to rise. The United States alone discards 30 million tons each year. By 2050, plastic production will account for 20 percent of global fossil fuel consumption; and

WHEREAS, plastic pollution starts with fossil fuel extraction to create plastic and affects individuals, communities, and ecosystems all along the supply chain, from when the products are manufactured, transported, and used to when they degrade and emit greenhouse gases or impact the environment as litter; and

WHEREAS, oil refineries, plastic manufacturers and incinerators tend to be located in disadvantaged communities, which then must bear the brunt of the associated health impacts from industry, such as higher asthma rates;

WHEREAS, since plastic does not biodegrade but simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, virtually every gram of plastic ever created continues to exist, mostly either in a landfill or as pollution in our environment. As plastic breaks down, it emits potent greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the environmental and public health impacts of plastic pollution are devastating and the environmental externalities and public costs of cleaning up and mitigating plastic pollution are already staggering and continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in our landfills or in the environment, and evidence now shows that even our own food and drinking water sources are contaminated with plastic, called microplastics, including tap water, bottled water, table salt, and fish and shellfish from local California fish markets. A growing body of research is finding plastic and associated toxins throughout the food web, including in our blood, feces, and tissues. Exposure to these toxins has been

linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption, and other ailments; and

WHEREAS, without action, projections estimate that by 2050 the mass of plastic pollution in the ocean will exceed the mass of fish. A study by the University of Exeter and Plymouth Marine Laboratory found plastics in the gut of every single sea turtle examined and in 90 percent of seabirds. Additionally, plastic negatively impacts marine ecosystems and wildlife, as demonstrated by countless seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals, including, but not limited to, whales and dolphins, dying from plastic ingestion or entanglement; and

WHEREAS, in California, less than 15 percent of single-use plastic is recycled, and the cost to recycle plastics exceeds the value of scrap plastic material. Local governments in California annually spend in excess of \$420 million in ongoing efforts to clean up and prevent plastic and other litter from entering our rivers and streams and polluting San Francisco Bay, our beaches and oceans; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy goal of the state that not less than 75 percent of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, or composted by the year 2020. However, as of 2017, the state was only on track to reach 44 percent, falling far short of this important goal; and

WHEREAS, the European Union and other countries that are major purchasers of consumer goods are implementing comprehensive waste reduction frameworks which urge producers to share in the responsibility of reducing waste and designing products to be reusable, recyclable and/or compostable. As the fifth largest economy in the world, California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis; and

WHEREAS, eliminating non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-compostable products and reducing packaging is by far the most effective and least expensive way to protect the health of people, wildlife, and the environment. Many reliable and reusable alternatives already exist and the positive results of their use have been proven; and

WHEREAS, businesses selling products into California have a responsibility to ensure that their packaging and products are minimizing waste, including ensuring materials used are reusable, recyclable, or compostable. This responsibility includes paying for the cost of the negative externality of recovery for materials they sell in California; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 54 would:

1. Require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to:
 - (a) Source reduce, to the maximum extent feasible, single-use packaging and products;
 - (b) Recycle, and require businesses to source reduce, at least 75 percent of single-use plastic packaging and products by 2030;
 - (c) Require that all single-use packaging and products distributed or sold in California are recyclable or compostable on and after 2030;

- (d) Develop incentives and policies to maximize and encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California;
- (e) Develop economic mechanisms to reduce the distribution of single-use packaging and products;
- (f) Discourage, to the extent feasible, the litter, export, or improper disposal of single-use packaging, products, and other materials likely to harm the environment or public health in California or elsewhere in the world; and
- (g) Prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the requirements noted above on or before January 1, 2021;

2. Require local governments, solid waste facilities, recycling facilities, and composting facilities to provide information requested by the department for purposes of developing that criteria;

3. Require a manufacturer of single-use plastic packaging or products sold or distributed in California to demonstrate a recycling rate of not less than 20% on and after January 1, 2022, and not less than 40% on and after January 1, 2026, as a condition of sale, and would authorize the department to impose a higher recycling rate as a condition of sale, as specified; and

WHEREAS, SB 54 is supported by nearly 150 organizations, groups and companies including StopWaste, Coastodian, Oceana, the Center for Biological Diversity, Service Employees International Union California, League of Women Voters of California, Sierra Club California, 350 Bay Area Action, and Dr. Bronner's; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses SB 54 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California