

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-18

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

A resolution to express the position of the SEABROOK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL regarding the regulation of certain plastic bags and other non-biodegradable items and any attempt by the South Carolina General Assembly to preempt the Town's authority to enact such regulation.

WHEREAS, Seabrook Island hosts a sensitive and vulnerable ecosystem composed of maritime forest, freshwater inlets and waterways, salt marshes, and sand dunes that open to miles of beach, a portion of which is designated critical or protected habitat for wildlife and marine species;

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of Seabrook Island have repeatedly demonstrated their desire, intent, and commitment to protect and preserve the natural environment of the island;

WHEREAS, actions to preserve the natural beauty and protect the wildlife of Seabrook Island are environmentally responsible and appropriate, such actions also contribute to maintaining property values, supporting tourism, and protecting businesses dependent on local natural resources;

WHEREAS, plastics, especially single-use plastic bags made from forms of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a nonrenewable petroleum or natural gas by-product that is non-biodegradable, have proven to be an environmental hazard worldwide, contributing to extensive litter and water pollution that is life-threatening to wildlife, marine species, and humans;

WHEREAS, the threat of plastics contamination is a significant threat to the Seabrook Island ecosystem, it is appropriate and within the scope of the Town's authority to enact such regulation as may be necessary to abate this threat;

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the South Carolina General Assembly that would prohibit the Town of Seabrook Island and other municipalities in the State from establishing regulations banning certain plastic bags and other non-biodegradable items, thus preempting local jurisdiction and ignoring unique local interests and environmental conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Seabrook Island do hereby confirm their intent to continue and complete in 2019 the process of enacting an ordinance to ban the use of single-use plastic bags for the delivery of food or merchandise within the jurisdiction of the Town of Seabrook Island;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Council intend to continue to seek community and stakeholder input during the development and consideration of any ordinance for the Town of Seabrook Island that would ban the delivery of food or merchandise in single-use plastic bags, including whether other non-biodegradable food service or packaging items should be included in such ban;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Council do hereby confirm their adamant opposition to any legislation pending in the South Carolina General Assembly that would override local jurisdiction and prevent local regulation of plastics contamination;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seabrook Island Town Council instructs the Mayor to send a copy of this resolution to any relevant Representatives and Senators in the South Carolina General Assembly.

SIGNED AND SEALED this 9th day of April, 2019, having been duly adopted by the Town Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the 26th day of March 2019.



Ronald J. Ciancio
Mayor

Witness:


Joseph M. Cronin
Town Administrator