Ladies and Gentlemen of the CT Legislature:

As concerned environmentalists and CT residents, we would like to ask for your support in our mission to ban plastic grocery bags.

Over the last year and a half, we have been working on banning single-use plastic grocery bags in West Hartford. We are proposing the idea of reusable bags. We have been working with the clean energy and recently presented to the town council were we hope to gain more feedback on some of the next steps. Plastic bag pollution has increased dramatically. This has contributed to the Great Garbage Patch in our oceans, which has caused a large number of marine animal deaths, such as sea turtles, whales and seabirds. You might think the ban would be inconvenient, but we are proposing the use of reusable bags as a more environmentally and economically friendly alternative.

Some of the reasons why we have been doing this is because…

Plastic bags cause recycling plants to shut down every day for about three hours just to clean out the plastic.

Plastic bags are ruining some of our favorite vacation sights like the Long Island and even worse the Atlantic and Pacific coastlines.

Animals every day are being killed by the trash YOU left behind.

Plastic bags litter the streets adding to town maintenance cost (higher taxes)

By 2050 there will be more trash in the ocean than sea animals.

There are currently 150 million metric tons of trash circulating around the marine environment, and those numbers will only get worse. (statistic from ocean conservancy)

This is OUR world we will be inheriting it sooner than later and we want it the way YOU had it, and the longer we wait it will just keep getting worse and worse and soon it will be too late, how would you feel leaving the world with that on your chests knowing that the planet is left in bad shape.

1) Plastic Bags are being found in parks and neighborhoods across our town.

2) Local animals and pets can consume microplastic or get tangled in the plastic causing bodily harm. (Think high veterinary bills!)

3) Our recycling plants have to shutdown every day to unclog the bags jammed in the machines. This is a physical threat to the workers and an economic threat to our town!
4) Our bag consuming habits don't just affect our town locally, but impacts our favorite vacation sites such as Long Island Sound.

So now that you know, some of the horrific facts of plastic bag pollution we hope you will do something about it. This is not an issue we can gloss over and hope someone else will take care of. This not where we can put up a facade and it will magically disappear. This is an international crisis. So please take the time to seriously consider our proposal. There really is no time like the present.

Thank You for your time.

Evan Piccioli, Charlotte Tucker, Zoe Weismann
7th Grade Students at Sedgwick Middle School

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1egSc_YNKxKF6Z_BmVE9QN5-csrzfqbaF0uYgBP7mn0/edit?usp=sharing

*These citations were used in a presentation for the West Hartford town council


Slide 4: Weheartit.com  http://cliparts.co


Slide 7: https://www.storyblocks.com/stock-image/decorative-swirl-elements-vector-design

Slide 8: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyMf5wLmEuDx3Evsvu-2gTBA

Slide 9:


Slide 3

https://www.google.com/search?q=plastic+bags+waste+westhartford&oq=plastic+bags+waste+westhartford&gs_l=img.3...47196.48823..49067...0.0..0.97.521.6......1....1..gws-wiz-img.krxX_iwmccE#imgrc=Bp5-hSsqRD4WDM:
Areej Nitowski
Team Colgate
Sedgwick Middle School Room 317
128 Sedgwick Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
HYPERLINK "mailto:Areej_Nitowski@whps.org"Areej_Nitowski@whps.org
860-570-6500 x2517

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:
This West Hartford Public Schools e-mail may contain confidential information. It is intended solely for the original designated recipient(s).
Any other use is prohibited and access to this email by anyone else is unauthorized.
Any opinions expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by WHPS.