

From: John M. Dumais <dumais@grocers.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Bettencourt, David <David.Bettencourt@nh.gov>
Subject: Exhibit B of Emergency Order #52

Good afternoon DJ,

I know we have not talked in some time, however, I have been following all of the work you have been doing with the state's Economic Reopening Task Force. I understand during your most recent meeting, a discussion was held on allowing reusable bags to be brought back into food stores.

NHGA's position continues to be unconditionally opposed to this idea.

1-We have never supported attempts to ban plastic bags since they are the most sanitary and economical carryout option for all consumers.

2-A ban on reuseable bags was one of the earliest decisions Governor Sununumade after seeking our advice.

3-It was the right decision because it eliminated a major source of contamination in stores, that are being urged to consistently clean public spaces.

4-Now, with the reopening of the entire state, everyone is concerned about increases in the Covid infection rate. Why bring this unsanitary condition back?

5- In fact, we were very pleased that under Exhibit B of Emergency Order #52; Section F. RETAIL, Business Process Adaptations, #6 Continues to prohibit the use of reusable bags.

6-In fact, we would suggest this ban on reuseable bags should continue until the New Hampshire State of Emergency Declaration is eliminated.

7-Imagine, as the Governor has suggested, that there is a real potential for a second surge this fall. If we allow reusable bags now, a small segment of all store customers could rely upon using them again. With a second wave, grocers would have to go back to confronting customers to again not bring these items into stores, in order to achieve the same level of cleanliness now available in food stores.

We thank Governor Sununu, you, and the Task Force for all you are doing to accommodate the reopening of all businesses. I am personally available at any time to discuss your concerns about this or any other industry issues and looking forward speaking with you whenever you have a moment to spare>

Best regards,
John

John M. Dumais

President & CEO

Direct Line: 603.315.4164

110 Stark Street

Manchester, NH 03101-1977

Office: 603.669.9333

www.grocers.org