



March 22, 2020

The Honorable Phil Scott
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

RE: Vermont's Single-use Plastic Bag Ban

Dear Governor Scott,

Vermont's single-use plastic bag ban is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2020.

The [CDC reports](#) that it may be possible that a person can contract COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Retail and grocery employees, much like healthcare professionals are on the front lines of providing necessary services during this unprecedented time. In the interest of ensuring the safety of all essential retail and grocery store employees, the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association requests that the State of Vermont postpone until January 1, 2021 at the earliest the ban on plastic bags and the subsequent 10 cent fee required paper bags.

Additionally, because of increased shopping, retailers at this time are unsure about the long-term availability of reusable bags given that most of the permissible bags are only available from overseas manufacturers.

Please know that this request is not taken lightly as VRGA worked hard to support this ban during the 2019 legislative session. However, we believe it is in the best interest of the thousands of retail employees across the state that, again, you consider postponing the ban on plastic bags and the subsequent required 10 cent fee on paper bags until January 1, 2021 at the earliest.

We thank you for your consideration and leadership during this challenging time. We look forward to working with you and your team to best serve our communities safely and efficiently.

Sincerely,

Erin Sigrist | President
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Cc: Erica Bornemann, Director Vermont Emergency Management