

Minnesota
RETAILERS
Association

September 26, 2017

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

City Council Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Retailers Association, I am writing to urge a NO vote on the to-go packaging ban as proposed.

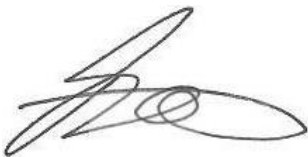
St. Paul retailers providing to-go food and beverages work with a variety of products—from hot and cold, soups to sandwiches, coffee to soda. There is a specific, intentional purpose for each individual container that retailers offer their customers. The proposed, broad mandate takes away a retailer's ability to make choices that work best for their customers, their businesses, and their environmental sustainability plans.

Retailers operate on thin margins in a very competitive marketplace, and will have to pass higher pricing on to customers as their costs go up under this proposal. While this might seem painless for some, these cost increases will be a true burden and problem for many. Many customers are on limited or fixed incomes and any raise in cost may impact their ability to shop in their neighborhood and at the retailers they prefer to visit.

We ask that the City, prior to imposing yet another ban or regulation on a product (especially a ban that effects so little of the material but with such great impact on retailers and our customers) to please take time to examine alternatives. One such alternative would be to examine how the City might partner with the industry to begin a program that actually recycles this reusable material that is valued on the resale market.

Please oppose this regressive ban as proposed.

Sincerely,



Bruce Nustad
president - bruce@mnretail.org