

April 22, 2014

Sarah Lakeman  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
3 Wade St.  
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Sarah:

Thank you for your question about plastic and paper bags. Hannaford generally does not take positions on different policy ideas related to the impact of plastic or paper bags. However, as you noted in our conversation, we definitely have a lot of experience with both types of bags so we may be able to help with information.

We do believe that any regulation to ban or limit single use bags would be wise focus on both types, plastic and paper. The reason is that paper also has an environment impact that is quite significant. It is energy and resource intensive to manufacture paper. In addition, paper takes up substantially more volume in the transportation chain. In general, single-use paper requires about six times the volume to transport than single-use plastic and that's a big part of what drives both the carbon impact and cost to consumers. It effectively removes the unintended consequence of driving up the energy/carbon impacts when any approach to regulate includes both classes of single use bags. I hope this is helpful.

Sincerely,

Kasey Harris  
Hannaford Supermarkets