



Tofino Business ASSOCIATION

5360-02-COLLECTION

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CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE B.C. AND CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 12, 2006

Mr. Leif Pedersen
Clerk-Administrator
The District of Tofino
P.O. Box 9
Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0.

Dear Leif,

Re: Plastic Bag Program

Thank you for your letter of November 20th 2006 regarding the District of Tofino's proposed Plastic Bag program.

At the December 6th general meeting of the Tofino Business Association (TBA) the directors and members present discussed at length the merits and disadvantages of this program.

Although we commend the District of Tofino for proposing a means of reducing the amount of disposable plastic bags in the "waste stream" and drawing attention in general to the environmental impacts of garbage, particularly plastics, the TBA has some concerns with the proposal as it currently stands.

Consideration should be given to the difficulty that retail staff would have in regards to educating the public to what amounts to a 25 cent charge per bag. While some members of the public would be more receptive than others to the concept, it would be difficult to enforce across the board to all customers. Retailers have to be mindful of actions that have the potential to create negative perceptions.

Secondly, the collection and remittance of a voluntary tax raises administrative issues. Smaller retail businesses would have difficulty tracking the funds, and larger businesses would have to set up separate procedures. In addition it is unclear whether PST and GST would have to be charged on the tax, a question that would have to be answered. In short, the administration of this program would be problematic.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to propose that both the Tofino Long Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Tofino Business Association urge all their members, on a voluntary and environmentally responsible basis, to cease with the use of standard plastic bags and replace them with biodegradable bags.

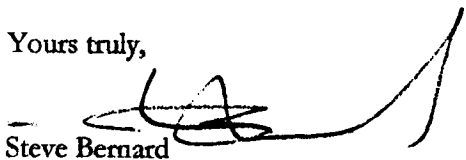
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I also urge all businesses to review how much plastics they are putting into the waste stream to see if savings could be made in other areas.

In the past few years there have been numerous additional taxes and recycling fees charged on items to assist in diverting them from the waste stream at the provincial level. Perhaps the District could pursue funding opportunities with Provincial Government and access some of these funds to assist in its recycling efforts.

Yours truly,


Steve Bernard
President
Tofino Business Association

Cc. Tofino Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

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