[Sender’s information]

**The Hon. Sylvain Richards JP, MP**

The Ministry of Environment and Planning

Dame Lois Browne-Evans Bldg., 5th Floor

58 Court Street

Hamilton HM 12

[Date]

Dear Sir

**Re Plastic Bag usage in Bermuda and suggested legislation**

I write in support of the environmental campaign aimed at reducing the number of plastic and paper bags (specifically single-use bags) used in Bermuda. The scale of the environmental damage caused by both paper and plastic bags is devastating and consumer habits must be changed.

The average use of plastic and paper bags following a purchase is between 10-15 minutes. Plastic, and more specifically polyethylene, take generations to decompose or does not decompose at all. Time to decomposition hardly matters in Bermuda where we incinerate all plastics, a more toxic process and arguably a better reason to legislate against prolific use.

Plastic is not only bad for the environment, but bad for humans too. According to the New York Times, chemicals from plastics have been found in human tissue, blood and urine, and exposure may be significantly higher than was previously thought. Plastics also contain endocrine disrupters, which when ingested, can cause significant health related issues.

On this basis, I wholly endorse legislation or policy change that aims to curb single-use plastic and paper bags. By imposing a tariff on consumers, grocers, retailers, a combination thereof, or by banning altogether, Bermuda can avert further environmental depreciation. The list of countries which have successfully implemented legislation reducing plastic and paper bag use are growing. Many countries have successfully implemented such legislation, including the US, China, India, South Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

Thank you very much for considering the above, and I implore you to take every possible measure to set Bermuda on a better environmental course for the future – one with fewer or without plastic and paper single use bags.

Sincerely,

[Name]