

**RESOLUTION NO. 102a - 2015**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN FLORIDA TO LESSEN THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT AND REQUESTING EXPANSION OF STATE LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE COUNTIES, IN ADDITION TO MUNICIPALITIES, TO ALLOW THE REGULATION AND/OR BAN OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS BY BOTH MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES.**

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of Monroe County and the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, plastic bags are detrimental because they do not fully degrade in our oceans or land environment and they introduce unsafe chemicals into our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, plastic bags create the potential for death of land and marine animals through entanglement and ingestion; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansive usage of single-use shopping bags and their typical disposal rates creates an impediment to the County's waste reduction and recycling goals while creating unsightly litter; and

**WHEREAS**, single-use plastic bags are difficult to recycle and frequently contaminate material that is processed through the County's curbside recycling and composting programs; and

**WHEREAS**, reusable bags are considered to be the best option to reduce waste and litter, protect wildlife and conserve resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners for Monroe County acknowledges that some businesses have taken affirmative steps to accomplish this goal and recognizes their proactive efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest for the Board of County Commissioners for Monroe County to encourage and enable the location of a viable reusable bag manufacturing operation in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest for the Florida Legislature to provide statewide deregulation of the proliferation of single-use shopping bags; and

**WHEREAS**, if the State does not act to regulate the proliferation of single-use shopping bags the Board of County Commissioners for Monroe County would like to potentially enact regulations governing the use of plastic checkout bags;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** Monroe County is committed to the long-term goal of reducing the harms of plastic pollution on our fragile environment and committed to ensuring a thriving, attractive and safe environment for current and future residents and tourists.

**SECTION 2.** Monroe County does hereby support initiatives to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastic bags specifically, and supports the promotion of reusable shopping bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic or single-use paper bags.

**SECTION 3.** Monroe County supports the State Legislature's action to allow local municipalities in the State of Florida to regulate their own local communities in an effort to alleviate the harms cause by single-use shopping bags; and, therefore, Monroe County opposes any statewide preemption on local efforts to determine the best course of action with regards to protection of the local environment and tourism economy.

**SECTION 4.** Monroe County respectfully requests the State Legislature expand their legislation to also include counties, in addition to municipalities, to allow the regulation and/or ban of single-use plastic bags by both municipalities and counties.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said board held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

<b>Mayor Danny L. Kolhage, District 1</b>	<u>Yes</u>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Heather Carruthers, District 3</b>	<u>Yes</u>
<b>Commissioner George Neugent, District 2</b>	<u>Yes</u>
<b>Commissioner David Rice, District 4</b>	<u>Yes</u>
<b>Commissioner Sylvia Murphy, District 5</b>	<u>Yes</u>



Amy Heavilin, Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: *Dorinda Ballar*  
Deputy Clerk

By: *D. Kolhage*  
Mayor Danny L. Kolhage

**MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

*[Signature]*  
**ROBERT B. SHILLINGER, JR.**  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

Date 4-16-15