



Partners For Environmental Progress

April 15, 2019

Honorable Vivian Figures
Honorable Jack Williams
Honorable David Sessions
Honorable Matt Simpson
Honorable Adline Clarke
Honorable Napoleon Bracy
Honorable Sam Jones
Honorable Victor Gaston
Honorable Chris Pringle
Honorable Shane Stringer

Honorable Barbara Drummond
Honorable Margie Wilcox
Honorable Chip Brown
Honorable Greg Albritton
Honorable Chris Elliott
Honorable Harry Shiver
Honorable Alan Baker
Honorable Joe Faust
Honorable Steve McMillan

RE: PEP Opposition to SB 244 and HB 346

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP), I am writing you to oppose passage of Senate Bill 244 and House Bill 346, which would prohibit cities and counties in Alabama from regulating, restricting or prohibiting the litter of bags, cups, bottles and packaging. We are opposed to these bills as they would limit the ability of local elected officials to act to protect their natural resources and environment. The unique natural resources of the Alabama Gulf Coast make this a desirable place to live and do business and are a key economic engine for the entire State.

PEP is a non-profit coalition of business and education leaders who share the vision of applying science-based best environmental practices to business and community issues. Our 220+ member companies, who employ more than 22,000 local citizens, recognize that the future of our area depends on ensuring a balance between business and industrial growth and a healthy environment.

Addressing the extensive plastic trash and litter problem in our local waterways is a high priority in all communities engaged in the extensive watershed management planning being conducted by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. As co-chair of the MBNEP's Business Resource Committee, PEP has been actively engaged in helping local businesses get involved in cleaning up local waterways, through litter clean-ups, developing package reduction incentive programs

A Clean Environment is Good for Business

Letter to State Legislators
April 15, 2019
Pg 2

and trash containment initiatives. PEP has also invested in the development of small-stream litter capture devices.

Limiting trash at its source is a critical component to comprehensively abating litter, a high priority of local governments across Mobile and Baldwin counties. The costs of trash management and litter abatement are borne by local government, and by extension burdens taxpayers. They should have the flexibility to consider and employ all options to address these issues. The State legislators should not limit their solutions. We respectfully request that you oppose these bills and continue your work to protect our rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Denson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Denson
Executive Director