



SANTA FE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

*Caja del Rio Landfill
Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station*

August 8, 2013

Mayor David Coss
200 Lincoln Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Support for the Proposed Ordinance to Ban Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bags in Santa Fe

Dear Mayor Coss,

At its July 18, 2013 meeting, the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency's Joint Powers Board supported the proposed ordinance to ban single-use carryout plastic bags at retailers and businesses. This proposed ban will help keep our community clean, as many plastic bags end up being improperly disposed along our roads, finding their way to our arroyos, and affecting our wildlife.

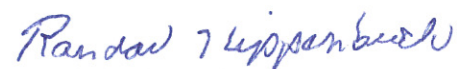
Plastic bags impose cost and environmental impacts to our community, including litter abatement activities and the long term degradation of water and soil. The Agency is continually removing litter in the form of plastic bags at both the Caja del Rio Landfill and the Buckman Road Recycling & Transfer Station (BuRRT). This is mainly due to bags being easily blown away and getting caught in trees and fences, which increases staff time and expenses.

Plastic bags are not recycled at the BuRRT because they can clog and damage the automated sorting machinery, increasing downtime and maintenance expenses. In addition, it is very hard to find a sustainable and consistent market to sell the plastic bags, causing plastic bag recycling at BuRRT to be financially unfeasible. Waste reduction and recycling are two of the main goals of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the City and County of Santa Fe and reducing the use of this type of waste at the source is the best solution.

In conclusion, the Agency supports the City of Santa Fe in becoming a single-use carryout plastic bag free city, and we offer our services to help make this a reality.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Randall Kippenbrock, P.E.
Executive Director