



Massachusetts Sierra Club
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Dear Brookline Town Meeting Members and Committees:

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club has been actively supporting efforts to reduce plastic waste and ultimately achieve zero waste.

The Massachusetts Sierra Club strongly endorses Articles 5 & 6. Since Brookline took the lead in 2012, you have inspired dozens of similar laws to address single-use plastic products from Williamstown to the Vineyard. These laws now represent one million residents or 15% of the Commonwealth.

The by-laws propose bringing a wider range of plastic products into your existing regulatory framework including produce bags, plastic dinnerware, food containers, cup lids, utensils, straws, and packing peanuts. Brookline probably consumes over 100 million such plastic items per year.

We have reviewed your articles in detail and can say that Brookline is again combining best practices from communities here in the Commonwealth and around the country that promote sustainable solutions for packaging and foodservice ware. By addressing factors such as recycled content in paper bags, robust reusable bags, and promoting renewable/compostable products, you are reducing the carbon footprint of this sector. Furthermore, we cannot keep fossil fuels in the ground if we are using them for plastics. Restricting toxic materials and using non-toxic, natural, and recyclable materials benefits solid waste, human health, and various environments from urban green space to the oceans. Passing these articles will protect our most vulnerable population, our children, now and in the future.

Moving to better packaging and foodservice ware will further enhance the sustainability of the town's retail economy. Reducing permanent, harmful plastic litter will beautify the town and reduce litter control costs. These updates to your laws will return Brookline to the lead in Massachusetts in addressing the large and growing global problem of plastic pollution and spur action in other communities, the state and beyond.

We urge you to vote favorable action on Articles 5 & 6.

Respectfully,

Emily Norton,
Massachusetts Sierra Club, Chapter Director
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