

**From:** [Bruno Welsh / Compost RVA](#)  
**To:** [Warren Jr., RJ A. - Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Bag tax letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 1:27:43 PM

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Good afternoon Council Chief of Staff, RJ Warren,  
I hope this finds you well. I hope it is not too late, but I'm attaching my letter of support for the Office Of Sustainability program for a bag tax.



[Plastic Tax letter, Compost RVA.docx](#)

Thank you kindly,  
Bruno

Take care,

Bruno  
Founder  
Compost RVA  
Healthy Soil RVA

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May 27, 2025

RJ Warren, Council Chief of Staff  
City of Richmond  
900 E. Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23219

*Re: Letter of Support for the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax*

Dear Mr. Warren,

This letter conveys the support of Compost RVA for the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax that will be introduced at the May 27, 2025 City Council meeting.

Compost RVA works to advance climate action in the City as part of its RVAgreen2050 initiative and collaborates with the Richmond Office of Sustainability (“Office”) on its Climate Equity Action Plan. The Office has worked diligently with City officials, waste reduction experts, residents, businesses, and the SRC to implement these initiatives in a thoughtful and equitable manner. To that end, SRC fully supports the proposed ordinance to implement a Disposable Plastic Bag Tax. This policy initiative was identified as action items in Richmond 300, RVAgreen2050, and the Climate Emergency Resolution passed by Council in 2021.

The Disposable Plastic Bag Tax is a 5 cent/bag tax that will apply to all plastic bags provided by grocery, convenience and pharmacy stores beginning January 1, 2026. Revenue generated will support environmental education, cleanup projects, and provide reusable bags to City residents receiving SNAP or WIC benefits. The policy proposes a revenue split with retailers. The estimated cost to residents is \$2.12/year.

City staff propose conducting rigorous outreach to community members and businesses in advance of the tax taking effect. The six-month outreach schedule allows ample time for businesses and community members to prepare for the introduction of the new tax. During this time, staff will also conduct an education campaign to businesses and consumers on the statewide polystyrene ban and the statewide balloon ban. Unlike the plastic bag tax, these two measures are already established by state law and do not require local adoption, though local education and enforcement efforts will be important for their success.

Together, these waste reduction initiatives aim to measurably reduce plastic and polystyrene waste that either ends up in our landfills or detracts from the City’s beauty as unsightly and long-lasting roadside and waterbody litter. The substitution of reusable, recyclable or compostable alternatives directly supports RVAgreen2050’s goal of fostering a sustainable RVA community by reducing waste streams. In addition, reinvesting the bag tax revenues in environmental improvements in disadvantaged communities within Richmond and providing reusable bags for low-income residents will further the environmental justice goals of RVAgreen2050.

We strongly support the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax and are hopeful that it will be enacted by City Council.

Sincerely,

Bruno Welsh

Compost RVA