



# The City of York Pennsylvania

Office of City Council

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**May 28, 2020**

Dear Member of the General Assembly,

We are writing to urge you to oppose any efforts to extend or renew the legislation that preempts Pennsylvania's municipalities from implementing policies to reduce local pollution from single-use plastics during the General Assembly's current budget season.

As you are probably aware, language was included in one of the state budget bills during the summer of 2019 (Act 20 of 2019) that preempted local officials from implementing fees or bans on single-use plastics for one year. This preemption is currently set to expire later this summer, on July 1, 2020.

We are very concerned that an effort will be made to embed similar legislation in the budget legislation that the General Assembly is expected to take up in the upcoming weeks. We ask that you oppose any such effort.

Local officials should have all the tools possible at their fingertips to address issues that negatively affect their constituents. These issues include environmental challenges such as the pervasiveness of plastic pollution that affects our communities a variety of ways.

Plastic pollution litters our streets, parks, and waterways, and threatens our native wildlife. Cleanup costs for our roads, streets, and sewer systems ends up imposing millions of dollars in cleanup costs for taxpayers and local rate payers.

In many municipalities of the Commonwealth, there is growing concern from our constituents about the effects that single-use plastics have on our environment, health, and planet.

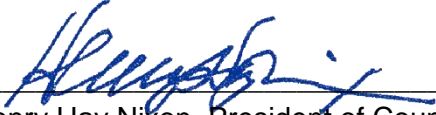
Having our finger on the pulse of our local constituents, we will know if and when it is the right time to use different tools to address different issues in our communities. But prohibiting us from implementing policies only ties our hands and angers local voters—on this and on other issues of preemption and government overreach.

Given this, we believe strongly that our cities and towns (and their local voters) should have the right to decide the best policies for protecting our environment from single-use plastic litter and pollution.

Please oppose any effort to extend or renew the preemption that prohibits local officials from implementing policies around single-use plastics, and please request your leadership to firmly oppose any effort to implement this type of policy by embedding it in a must-pass budget bill or free standing legislation.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

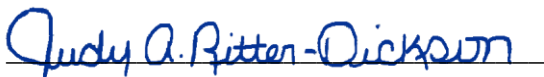
Respectfully,



Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council



Sandie Walker, Vice President of Council



Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Council Member



Edquina Washington, Council Member



Lou Rivera, Council Member