



New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Inc.

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NYSAR<sup>3</sup>

1971 Western Avenue #1180

Albany, NY 12203

## **NYSAR3 Supports** **A00191B (Kavanagh) / S05817-A (Grisanti)** **Relating to the Recovery and Recycling of Film Plastics**

**TITLE OF BILL:** An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the recycling of film plastic

**PURPOSE:** To provide New Yorkers with more opportunities to recycle plastic film products such as newspaper bags, produce bags, and dry cleaning bags, and align existing state law with the previously adopted “New York City Plastic Carryout Bag and Film Plastic Recycling Law.”

### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:**

The legislation, recently passed by both houses of the New York State Legislature, will require New York State to alter the existing plastic bag recovery and recycling program by adding film plastic products to the collection programs in certain retail locations; the current law is solely directed at carryout plastic bags.

### **NYSAR3 Statement of Support:**

New Yorkers currently dispose of some *3.6 billion pounds of plastic bags and film plastics each year* (surprisingly, comprising about 10% of the total waste stream by weight); only a small fraction of these types of materials are currently recycled. Too often, they end up as litter on local roadways and parks. Furthermore, they don't easily degrade, and are detrimental to both wildlife and water quality. Unfortunately, these plastic items cannot currently be practically recovered through existing curbside recycling collection programs (film plastics and plastic bags create equipment malfunctions at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) as they become tightly wound around conveyor systems, creating significant maintenance problems and driving up recycling costs).

The existing New York State Plastic Bag Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Law has helped to increase the recovery and recycling of plastic bags through convenient drop off at local retail locations. Film plastics can be remanufactured into a variety of new products, including composite plastic lumber and new bags, with the latter reducing the need for petroleum related resources. Such remanufacturing supports jobs, an economic benefit that is directly enhanced by increasing the recovery of these recyclable materials.

Expanding the current Plastic Bag Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling Law to include film plastics will reduce litter, increase recycling, and help New York State establish a leadership role in creating the sustainable materials management economy of the future.

For these reasons, NYSAR<sup>3</sup> joins with the Food Industry Alliance<sup>3</sup> of New York State and the New York League of Conservation Voters in strongly urging Governor Cuomo to sign this measure into law.

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NYSAR3 is a statewide association of recycling professionals in both the public and private sectors. Each day, NYSAR3's members help New York residents, schools, and businesses recycle more, while supporting job growth through the recovery and remanufacturing of materials that would otherwise end up in local waste streams.