

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2449 that implements a statewide plastic bag recycling program.

While this bill may not go as far as some local environmental groups and cities may have hoped, this program will make progress to reduce plastics in our environment. This measure requires every retail establishment that provides its customers plastic bags to have an in store plastic bag recycling program, a public awareness program promoting bag recycling, post recycling requirements, record keeping and penalties.

Because this is a statewide program the bill precludes locals from implementing more stringent local requirements. The bill sunsets in six years and this will allow locals time to develop additional programs or the legislature to consider a more far reaching solution.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger