



Kilcatherine, Eyeries, County Cork
<http://www.friendsoftheirishenvironment.org>

John Gormley, TD
Minister for the Environment,
Customs House,
Dublin
3 January, 2010

Re: Plastic Bag Levy – extension to paper carrier bags

Dear Minister;

We write again about the issue of the plastic bag levy and its extension to paper carrier bags as Washington DC joins the list of US cities which are bringing in this measure.

As we said in our submission of 28 September, 2009, international studies that show that paper carrier bags should be included in any plastic bag levy as paper bags have a greater adverse impact than a plastic bag for a number of the key environmental indicators.

Other initiatives that have emerged through the international debate – sparked in a large part by Ireland's pioneering legislation - include incorporating encouragement for retailers that provide incentives for customers bringing reusable bags, for the provision of such carrier bags, and for allowing retailers to keep a small percentage themselves.

We would encourage the Minister to initiate a study and consultation on the current levy to ensure that Ireland is making the best use of these environmental and economic opportunities in the light of what is happening elsewhere in the world.

Yours, etc.,

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