September 19, 2022

City of South Lake Tahoe
1901 Lisa Maloff Way
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: Agenda Item #8 - Ordinance Amending Chapter 4.175 (Polystyrene and Plastic Food Packaging Regulations) of the South Lake Tahoe City Code to Establish a Municipal Use and Commercial Ban on Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles (First Reading)

Dear Mayor Middlebrook, Members of the Council, and City staff -

Thank you for the opportunity to support the City’s leadership through the proposed ordinances Amending Chapter 4.175 of the City Code.

Since 1957, the League to Save Lake Tahoe (League) has been dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental health, sustainability, and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin. In line with our mission, the League supports the implementation of local laws and regulations that advance this mission.

The City’s proposed ordinances help achieve both the League’s mission to protect and restore the Tahoe Basin by reducing plastic pollution while also taking a big step toward implanting the City’s Strategic Plan Goal 3.4 to ban single-use plastics, especially water bottles.

The City has demonstrated initiative in addressing plastic waste by banning single-use plastic bags in 2015, before the statewide ban. The City also took initiative in 2018 by passing an ordinance banning polystyrene products and requiring single-use utensils and plastic straws by request only. The City continued to work with the League and other groups to educate residents and visitors about the ordinances and the need to work together to reduce trash in the environment.

Americans currently buy half a billion bottles of water every week, enough to circle the globe twice. We consume more bottles of water than any other nation. Every second, 1,000 people open a bottle of water in the U.S. An estimated 85% of water bottles purchased end up either in landfills or in the environment each year. A plastic bottle is often only used for less than an hour, but takes centuries to decompose, turning into harmful microplastics along the way.

Each plastic water bottle uses an average of 25% of the bottle capacity filled with petroleum just to produce the bottle. It takes three times the volume of water contained in a water bottle to get one single bottle to the consumer. Beyond the manufacturing process, single-use bottles have significant environmental impacts throughout their lifecycle. The bottles require significant energy to transport and dispose of.

Other single use plastics that would be addressed by these ordinances include plastic utensils, straws, and polystyrene packaging and products. The City’s existing ordinances will be enhanced. The sources of plastics have the same negative impacts on the environment and we are excited to see the City enhancing their existing ordinances which are starting to work based on our initial data.
Single use plastics continue to be a problem in South Lake Tahoe. Between 2014-2021, the League hosted, enabled, and contributed to 172 community cleanups around Lake Tahoe. Data relevant to the City’s existing and proposed ordinances implemented to reduce litter includes:

- 5,702 plastic water bottles picked up
- 14,296 bottle caps, about half of which were plastic
- 155,737 Plastic items and pieces, including:
  - 31,424 Styrofoam items and pieces
  - 19,290 straws, straw wrappers, and stirrers
  - 8,707 plastic utensils

The data shows that single-use plastics continue to be an issue in South Lake Tahoe despite convenient and similarly priced alternatives to plastic and polystyrene being readily available. These plastics from water bottles not only litter Tahoe’s beaches, but degrade into microplastics that can escape into the environment and impact Tahoe’s water quality and renowned clarity. Microplastics do not enter Lake Tahoe through wastewater but through improperly disposed of litter including plastic water bottles found on Lake Tahoe’s beaches.

Tahoe tap water is world renowned and award-winning for its quality and taste. Many people drink bottled water because they believe it to be of a higher quality, cleaner and better-tasting, but that perception is accurate in Tahoe. The EPA regulates tap water and requires multiple daily water quality tests while the FDA regulates bottled water and only requires weekly testing, which is not shared with the EPA or the public. Bottled water also costs the consumer 1,000 times more than tap water.

We are excited to support the City in providing alternatives to our community. One example is our partnership on the City’s upcoming CalRecycle grant application for water bottle refill stations on City property. The League could also promote these stations to inform the public about where to get water while recreating in Lake Tahoe.

The data that the League has gathered is showing initial successes from the plastic bag and polystyrene bans. We are seeing fewer of these items, although precautions and the rise of takeout meals during COVID has been an obstacle. More education and outreach is needed to ensure that our local businesses know about the ordinances and are doing their part to help Keep Tahoe Blue.

The League has long supported the City in outreach and education around litter reduction. Along with continued and accelerated outreach and education, we are asking the City to adopt an additional ordinance and bolster the existing ones to help reduce litter before it enters the Lake. By approving the ordinances proposed today, the City will continue to lead by example for our community members and visitors. In conjunction with the ordinances, joint outreach will help achieve a real and meaningful reduction in plastic litter.

The League is committed to continuing and enhancing our support using our staff and volunteers to educate residents, visitors, and businesses about the ordinances and providing information on alternatives to plastic and polystyrene.

We believe the community is with us. Attached is a letter that we gained 203 signatures on since just last Thursday, 42 of those from residents of the City of South Lake Tahoe.
Thank you again for your leadership and we look forward to working with the City on this endeavor to help achieve our common goals.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gavin Feiger
on behalf of the League to Save Lake Tahoe
Senior Land Use Policy Analyst

Attachment: Signed Support Letter
LET'S PROTECT LAKE TAHOE FROM PLASTIC LITTER

We support a ban on single-use plastic water bottles in South Lake Tahoe

The City of South Lake Tahoe can help solve the Basin’s litter problem, and it should. I support the City Council in their effort to prevent plastic litter before it starts by banning single-use plastic water bottles (agenda item #8).

Plastic litter on Tahoe’s beaches, trails and forests is a scar on the Basin’s pristine natural beauty and an all too common sight. Unless it’s removed, plastic litter like water bottles can harm wildlife, break down into polluting microplastics, and damage the quality of Tahoe’s beautiful blue waters. Data collected by the League to Save Lake Tahoe over nearly a decade of cleanup activities shows that improperly discarded plastic water bottles are persistent and unavoidable in Tahoe’s outdoors.

Aided by the League’s litter data, the City has taken the lead in protecting the natural environment by instituting a ban on plastic bags in 2013 (before the statewide ban) and by restricting the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam), single-use utensils and plastic straws in 2018. The City should continue to be a pollution-fighting leader by banning single-use plastic water bottles.

Plus, local tap water is a cleaner, healthier and lower cost alternative to bottled water. Drink Tahoe Tap!

Let's ditch plastic water bottles and Keep Tahoe Blue. We support agenda item #8.

Sincerely,
We, the undersigned

Eden Foster
Carson City, 89703

Brad Flora
Truckee, 96161

Zoe Harrold
Sparks, 89431

Jeffery Johnston
South lake tahoe, 96150

Zachery Smith
Kings Beach, 96143

Laura Patten
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Dana Dickison
Kings Beach, 96143

Cole Dickison
Truckee, 96161

Darcie Collins
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Judith Misenhimer
Placerville, 95667

Jerry Goodman
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, 96151

Peggy Cooley
S Lake Tahoe, 96150

ralph pendleton
Las Vagas, 89134
John Cahoon  
San Gabriel, CA, 91775

Kelci Brown  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Michael Chen  
Western Springs, 60558

Sonia Gámez-Rexelius  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Gordon Nixon  
Sacramento, 95864

Nick Speal  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Steven Wachter  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Jeff McKay  
Corte Madera, 94925

Peter Fairley  
Kings Beach, 96143

Tessa Williams  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Marc Miller  
Glendale, 91202

Joe Drexler  
Prior Lake, 55372

Natalya Ortiz  
West Hills, 91307

Eric Fischer  
Carnelian Bay, 96140

Enrique Valenzuela  
Whittier, 90605

Gina Morros  
Placerville, 95667

Karen Tarasco  
Seal Beach, 90740

Jennifer Boggs  
COLUMBIA CITY, 97018

Aimee Shocket  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Matthew Wolfe  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Joyce Carroll  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Rene CantoAdams  
Windsor, 95492

Remy CantoAdams  
Windsor, 95492

Sabine CantoAdams  
Windsor, 95492

Cara Bourne  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Nic Palacio  
New York, 10003

Cindy Scripps  
Glenbrook, 89413

Carly Clements Owens  
Alamo, 94507

Susan Kent  
SACRAMENTO, 95819

Patricia Lord  
Incline Village, 89451

Javier Valenzuela  
San Gabriel, 91775

Kelly Solov  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Lauren Mancewicz  

Richard Drury  
Truckee, 96161
janet clendenin  
south lake tahoe, 96150

Mary Elaine Valenzuela  
Tahoma, 96142

beverly fries  
Barboursville, 22923

Sara Sperry  
Tahoe City, 96145

Michelle Flores  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Joe Traverso  
CARLSBAD, 92009

David Brittain  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Kathleen Stolzenburg  
Reno, 89521

Erika Perez  
Reno, 89509

Andrew Schaefer  
Sacramento, 95860

Julia Semmens  
Tahoe City, 96145

Elizabeth Osborne  
Oceanside, 92058

Kim Agerbeek  
Santa Cruz, 95062

Jessie Lenahan  
Sparks, 89431

Robert Schuchardt  
SF, 94123

Rebecca Brackett  
Reno, 89523

Mary Stervinou  
Mill Valley, 94941

Elizabeth Mathews  
Larkspur, 94939

Mary Sharp  
Truckee, 96161

Terry Tario  
Boise, 83702

Claudia Huntington  
Glenbrook, 89413

Luke Jensen  
Solana Beach, 92075

Alice Renfroe  
Modesto, 95356

Jeff Sloss  
Tahoma, 94162

Bailey Gray  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Dr Baker  
Stateline, 89449

Lindsay Mugglestone  
Berkeley, 94705

marilyn marshman  
Reno, 89511

Kathy Englar  
Truckee, 96161

Greta Hoff  
Libertyville, 60048

Kathleen Egan  
San francisco, 94122

Jim & Lynette Yorkey  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Patricia Cain  
Gardnerville, 89460

Larry Alsop  
South Lake Tahoe, 96158
Gael Rodgers  
Pleasant Hill, 94523

Melissa Miller  
Santa Clara, 95050

Melissa Atkinson  
Petaluma, 94952

Parsons Smith  
Mill Valley, 94941

Barbara Christian  
Tahoe Vista, 96148

Jennifer Dawn  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Elisabeth Pease  
Tarzana, 91356

Jill Pease  
Fair Oaks, 95628

Joseph Pease  
Carlsbad, 92009

Nancy Kilborn  
Rancho Murieta, 95683

Lisa Cronin  
Sparks, 89436

Richard Matera  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Caroline Matera  
S LAKE TAHOE, 96150

Heather Henry  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, 96150

Nicholas Garrett  
Bainbridge Island, 98110

Emily Wolf  
Sacramento, 95816

j carroll  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Catherine Chambers  
Reno, 89502

Kathy Martineau  
Stateline, 89449

Allison Bennett  
Davis, 95616

Steve Scott  
Tahoe City, 96145

Dana Huestis  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Scott Pease  
Tarzana, 91356

Easton Underdahl  
Reno, 89511

Thomas Pease  
Kings beach, 96148

Ashley Pease  
Tarzana, 91356

J Anderson  
Prescott, 86305

Chad Hayes  
South lake tahoe, 96150

Cheryl McCoy  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Sonny Mayugba  
Truckee, 96161

Julie Spickler  
Palo Altp, 95304

Karla Peterson  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Meilin Tsao  
Sebastopol, 95472

Scott Greer  
Vacaville, 95687
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Greer</td>
<td>Vacaville, 95687</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Mackenzie</td>
<td>Sacramento, 95819</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Rivenes</td>
<td>Grass Valley California 95945, 95945</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Wesse</td>
<td>Minden, 89423</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Clemons</td>
<td>Glenbrook, 89413</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Bell</td>
<td>Tahoe City, 96145</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlene Minks-Grim</td>
<td>Stateline, 89449</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaylee Barton</td>
<td>Phoenix, 85048</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shandele Gumucio</td>
<td>Boulder, 80304</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Giffin</td>
<td>Santa Rosa, 95407</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Nation</td>
<td>South Lake Tahoe, 96150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Huber</td>
<td>Gardnerville, 89460</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinton Hawkins</td>
<td>Tahoe City, 96145</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edward wiles</td>
<td>Reno, 89506</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chia Rowan</td>
<td>INCLINE VILLAG, 89450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Sullivan</td>
<td>Reno, 89503</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Boyette</td>
<td>Tahoma, 96142</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Okerman</td>
<td>Walnut creek, 94596</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Carroll</td>
<td>Zephyr Cove, 89448</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Campbell</td>
<td>South Lake Tahoe, 96150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Fritts</td>
<td>South Lake Tahoe, 96150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Lou Kennedy</td>
<td>INCLINE VLG, 89450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelley Clare</td>
<td>Tahoe City, 96145</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryann Dresner</td>
<td>San Francisco, 94102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Hudson</td>
<td>SPARKS, 89436</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Gibb</td>
<td>Zephyr Cove, 89448</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darren Hunt</td>
<td>South Lake Tahoe,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Guzman</td>
<td>South Lake Tahoe, 96150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Barry</td>
<td>South Lake Tahoe, 96150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Wyatt</td>
<td>Santa Rosa, 95405</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terri Burge</td>
<td>Piedmont, 94611</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Sears</td>
<td>San Ramon, 94583</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Peck</td>
<td>Sherwood, 97140</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandler Peck</td>
<td>Incline, 98451</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amy Christiaens  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Steve Talbot  
Glenbrook, 89413

Amelia McDaniel  
Glenbrook, 89413

Geraldine Nicholson  
Sacramento, 95824

Jeffrey McDaniel  
Zephyr Cove, 89448

Arthur Kerckhoff  
Saint Louis, 63141

Jay Gudebski  
Tahoe, 96142

Debby Walter  
Davis, 95616

Susan Baise Warburg  
Glenbrook, 89413

Lindsay McDonald  
Incline Village, 89451

William Ramsey  
Reno, 89511

Tara Christison  
Truckee, 96161

Caryn Otto  
Reno, 89523

Jordan Smoczyk  
Brooklyn, 11221

Vonya Morris  
San Mateo, 94402

Catherine La Mar  
Woodside, 94062

Susan Lowe  
Stateline, 89449

Mark Agness  
Nevada City, 95959

Jack Winterhalter  
Truckee, 96160

Melissa Agness  
Nevada City, 95959

Barb Anderson  
Rocklin, 95765

Deborah Zell  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Christina Allan  
Auburn, 95602

Rich Hutchison  
Truckee, 96161

Cathy Cliff  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Rosemary Kessel  
Poway, 92064

Katherine Kershaw  
RENO, 89521

Lisa Alexander  
San Francisco, 94109

Katrina Estes  
Folsom, 95630

Fred Kost  
Carnelian Bay, 96140

Matthew Estes  
Folsom, 95630

Anna Wygant  
South Lake Tahoe, 96150

Jill Derby  
Glenbrook, 89413

Deborah Spohr  
Tahoe City, 96145
Susan Giger
Woodland, 95695

William Enos
Gardnerville, 89460

Nina Belcher
South Lake Tahoe, 96158

Joey Buck
Glenbrook, 89413

Ron Deller
Aptos, 95003

Constance M Deller
Incline Village, 95003

Stacey White
Tahoma, 96142

John Dovala
S Lake Tahoe, 96150

Pam Stroud
Tahoe City, 96145

Olivia Aqui
Stateline, 89449

Christine Gordon
Bethesda, 20816

tiffany maclaughlin
Homewood, 96141

Susan Young
Novato, 94945

Michael Young
Pittsburgh, 15212

Steven Weiss
Littleton, 80125

James Huff
Oak Brook, 60523

Natalie Pecoraro
Carmichael, 95608

Nathan Newman
Roanoke, 24019

Lisa Harris Wang
Corte Madera, 94925