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Contact:

Don Williams, Stop the Bag Ban citizen's group: 408-318-4819

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Campbell Residents Launch Initiative Petition to Stop Bag Bans (June 7, 2013).

CAMPBELL, CA: Today, three local Campbell residents opposed to carryout bag bans filed official paperwork to launch an initiative petition which will allow the citizens of Campbell to vote to block bag bans from coming to their city. Their effort, supported by the Stop the Bag Ban citizen's group, will be the first such effort launched in California empowering the people to stop a bag ban.

Bag bans implemented in nearby cities basically consist of a complete ban on typical carryout plastic bags, and a required "minimum fee" on paper bags. Such bag bans have been passed by the governing bodies of over 70 municipalities and counties in California (about 15% of the municipalities), however none has ever allowed their citizens to affirm or overturn their decision by popular vote.

The proposed initiative would add language to the Campbell Municipal Code to prohibit carryout bag bans, taxes, or minimum fees, and would overturn any laws that had been passed prior to the vote.

"These bag ban laws are an abuse of power," said petition co-organizer Larry Grattan, a long time Campbell resident. "Campbell does not need a bag ban. I regularly drive all over Campbell as part of my work and have yet to see a carryout bag problem. The arguments for bag bans are weak at best, and nothing more than an emotional plea that not only takes away the freedoms and rights of businesses and individuals, but exposes the public to increased health risks. And it is well-known that Campbell has benefited from increased business due to nearby cities joining in this eco-fad and driving customers here. Why would anyone give away our competitive advantage?"

"If someone wants to use a reusable bag, then they have that right," continued Grattan, "but it is wrong to force the other 90% of the people who freely choose plastic or paper bags to use reusable bags against their will. A very vocal minority persuades city councils in city after city that their citizens are too stupid to make the right choice, so they must be mandated into a lifestyle of reusable bags that they do not want. And city councils willingly join in for fear they will not look environmentally correct. That is wrong, and frankly reckless and dangerous. So we want to allow the people to vote to say no to this nonsense."

In 2012, then Mayor Mike Kotowski made public comments that Campbell had no intention of passing their own plastic bag ban. However, when Evan Low took over as mayor in 2013, he began a new effort to push a bag ban through the city council.

"It is great to see citizens stepping forward to tell the city council that the people should be allowed to vote rather than having their rights and freedoms trampled on by the city council based solely on half-truths and imaginary arguments," said Don Williams, founder of the Stop the Bag Ban citizen's group. "No city council ever puts these bag bans to a vote of the people, or

even polls their citizens to ask if it is what they want. Instead, they decree from their seats in city council chambers that the people shall not be allowed to get free, convenient, safe, and clean carryout bags. Yet discussions with citizens in cities affected by bag bans, and online comments to any article about bag bans reveal a lot of angry citizens who strongly disagree with the bag bans and see through it as nothing more than feel-good nanny state politics gone horribly wrong. Let's let the people of Campbell decide."

The process for launching a petition typically takes about 4 weeks, so official petition gathering will begin in early July. The petitioners will have 6 months to gather enough signatures to force the initiative to a vote of the people at the next general election or to force a special election if needed to stop implementation of a bag ban passed by the city council.

The Campbell Petition will be available for download at <http://www.stopthebagban.com>

For more information or to volunteer, please contact stopthebagban@gmail.com

About the Stop the Bag Ban citizen's group: Founded in 2012, the Stop the Bag Ban citizen's group consists of concerned private citizens from cities across the bay area who oppose both the substance and the negative effects of bag bans. Stop the Bag Ban is not funded or backed by any particular organization, business, industry, or group.