

Ingeprohler



motie 6.

Draft Motion  
(2011/2012, No. 01)  
Environmental Legislation

Motion Johan Leonard;

The United Peoples Party Faction in the Parliament of Country Sint Maarten, with its address at Parliament Building, Wilhelmina Street 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten.

**Considering:**

- 1) that most plastic bags go into landfill, or rubbish tips and each year more and more plastic bags are ending up littering the environment. Once they become litter, plastic bags find their way into our waterways, beaches and streets;
- 2) that the manufacturing of plastic bags add tons of carbon emissions into the air annually and it is estimated that approximately 60 to 100 million barrels of oil are required each year to produce plastic bags for the world. Resulting in between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags being used worldwide per year;
- 3) that one of the worst environmental effects of plastic bags is that they are non-biodegradable. It has been scientifically established that, most plastic bags take about over 400 to 1000 years to biodegrade;
- 4) that approximately 100,000 sea turtles and other marine animals are killed every year due to plastic bags. Many animals ingest plastic bags by mistaking the bags for food, and die as a result thereof;
- 5) that several businesses on St. Maarten have taken the initiative to deal with the environmental impact of plastic bags by endorsing the use of paper bags or other biodegradable bags by their customers;
- 6) that since approximately 2003 St. Maarten environmental organizations such as St. Maarten Pride Foundation has embarked on a campaign towards the ban of single-use disposable plastic carry-out bags;
- 7) that subsequent to the campaign towards the use of plastic bags on St. Maarten and in collaboration with EPIC (Environmental Protection in the Caribbean), a policy-framework was drafted in November 2011, which was submitted to the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport & Communication of St.





Maarten in order to have the current legislation updated, implemented and enforced.

**Resolves:**

- A. To introduce new legislation or to amend existing legislation stipulating a ban on plastic bags, in view of the pursuit by St. Maarten of an environmentally sustainable development.
- B. To apply the Draft Policy mentioned in the above consideration as a blueprint to introduce new legislation or to amend existing legislation stipulating a ban on plastic bags.

and proceeds to the order of the day.

Signed on this 19 day of MARCH, 2012.

Johan E. LEONARD

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Dr. Ruth A. G. Dauglass  
21 03 2012

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