

March 8, 2016

Chairman Siddoway & Members of the Senate Local Government Committee
Idaho State Senate
State Capitol, 700 West Jefferson
Boise, ID 83702

*Senator
McKenzie*

On behalf of the Idaho Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (IPM&CSA), I urge you to please support House Bill 372. HB 372 provides that any regulation regarding the use, disposition or sale—or any prohibition, restriction, fee or taxation—of auxiliary containers at the retail, manufacturer or distributor setting shall be done only by statute enacted by the Legislature.

Ensuring statewide uniformity of regulations is vital for our success. When it comes to packaging, our members harness purchasing power by buying in large quantities and dispersing to their affiliated stores. Having to adjust to unnecessary local regulations on food containers or plastic retail carry-out bags adds to the cost and administrative burden for each of our stores, many of which are independently owned small businesses.

We believe a decision to regulate any auxiliary container should be done by you and your colleagues in the Legislature. A patchwork of local ordinances is neither good for our businesses nor our consumers, who have come to rely on convenient, highly re-usable and 100% recyclable packaging.

House Bill 372 passed the House with strong support (52-17-1) on February 3, 2016. We ask you to help pass it through the Senate to ensure any regulations deemed necessary are done on a statewide basis. As other states in the nation move toward greater uniformity in packaging regulations, Idaho can add to its reputation as one of the friendliest business environments in the nation by passing HB 372.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Budge
Suzanne Budge
Executive Director, IPM&CSA