

**Resolution No. 18-21**  
**Date: February 16, 2021**

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, communities in Connecticut and across the nation are struggling to manage the rising cost of recycling programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Connecticut has one of the lowest bottle bill redemption rates at around 51%;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, producers of packaging have little incentive to design packaging to minimize waste, reduce toxicity or maximize recyclability, and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging; and

**WHEREAS**, producers of packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in Europe and Canada, and as a result have greatly increased recycling rates and infrastructure investment, created jobs and reduced taxpayer costs; and

**WHEREAS**, after 2017 when China changed its import policies to severely restrict the amount of contaminated and poorly sorted plastics it would accept, the U.S. began shipping plastics to parts of Southeast Asia and Africa with poor infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, many local governments are directly challenged by a robust lobbying effort at the state level to curtail actions to reduce plastic products; and

**WHEREAS**, the petrochemical industry announced \$204 billion in investments for 334 new or expanded plastic facilities in the United States, many relying on state and local tax incentives, which could increase global plastic production by a third in the next five years exacerbating pollution risks to frontline communities and undermining efforts by communities to reduce plastic waste.<sup>2</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN:** That the City of Middletown supports, at the federal and state level, the goals of the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act, co-authored by US Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico and US Representative Alan Lowenthal of California, which outlines a comprehensive approach to reducing plastic and packaging waste.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**Submitted by:** Eugene Nocera, Councilmember  
Philip J. Pessina, Councilmember

**Reviewed by:** Resource Recycling Advisory Council, approved at the regular meeting on January 25, 2021  
Public Works Commission, approved at the regular meeting on February 10, 2021

**Status: APPROVED**  
**By Common Council, City of Middletown**  
**At its meeting held on: MARCH 1, 2021**

*K: review/ resolution/ PW plastic pollution RES 18-21 – 1 March 2021*

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<sup>1</sup> [www.bottlebill.org](http://www.bottlebill.org)

<sup>2</sup> Legislative Blueprint for Reducing Plastic and Packaging Pollution