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Dear members of the Needham Select Board,

My name is Evan Raskin, I am the National Campaign Manager for EARTHDAY.ORG, the official organizers of Earth Day worldwide and environmental action year-round. I am also a member of the Needham community; this town is where I grew up and where my family continues to reside to this day.

I write to you today to inform that EARTHDAY.ORG has given its official endorsement of the proposed plastic bag ban bylaw that will be introduced as a Citizens' Petition Warrant Article to be voted on at the May 2023 town meeting.

Banning plastic bags is key step in ending single-use plastics, which are responsible for what is widely considered to be among the most significant public health crises of the modern world. Plastic pollution has permeated every corner of the globe, from the tallest mountains to the deepest oceans, and even inside our own bodies. The cost of inaction is enormous; without immediate action, we face one of the greatest environmental health challenges in human history.

Luckily, the solution is simple: ban the use of single-use plastics in Needham's commercial businesses, starting with plastic bags. This places zero burden on businesses or consumers, who are able to effortlessly carry on business as usual with paper and reusable alternatives.

There is already a proven track record of success for bag bans in Massachusetts; over 150 municipalities across the state have already successfully implemented plastic bag bans, including virtually all our neighbors in the Greater Boston area. Growing up, Needham was regularly described as one of the best towns in all of Massachusetts; implementing a plastic bag ban is essential to maintaining this reputation.

For too long, we've allowed the crisis of plastic pollution to harm our waterways, our wildlife, our neighborhoods, and our families. It's time to join the modern world in prioritizing environmental and public health. It's time to support a ban on single-use plastic bags.

Sincerely,

Evan Raskin,
National Campaign Manager

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