



County of Bernalillo
State of New Mexico
Planning & Development Services Department
111 Union Square SE, Suite 100
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
Office: (505) 314-0350 Fax: (505) 314-0480
www.bernco.gov

November 22, 2019

Carol Wright
New Mexico Restaurant Association
9201 Montgomery NE, Suite 602
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Dear BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF BERNALILLO COUNTY, OUTSIDE OF THE CITY LIMITS OF ALBUQUERQUE AND THE VILLAGE LIMITS OF TIJERAS AND LOS RANCHOS,

On June 25, 2019, the County Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam (polystyrene) containers in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County, outside the city limits of Albuquerque and the village limits of Tijeras and Los Ranchos.

This ban will go into effect on Jan.1, 2020.

After this date, retail establishments shall provide only the following carryout item types at checkout to customers: reusable bags, reusable containers, recyclable paper bags, recyclable containers, and/or cardboard boxes.

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect and enhance the county's unique and precious environment, wildlife, and beauty through the reduction of single-use, non-compostable or non-recyclable bags and containers, and to encourage the use of reusable or sustainable options.

The production and disposal of single-use plastic bags and single-use polystyrene containers create significant environmental impacts including the contamination of the environment, ingestion and entanglement by wildlife, and widespread litter. Single-use polystyrene containers create non-recyclable and non-degradable refuse streams while more environmentally sensitive alternatives are available.

For more information on the ban, go to www.bernco.gov/planning to see a list of frequently asked questions and an interactive map that shows the areas of the county that are unincorporated.

Sincerely,

Lucas Tafoya
Health Protection Manager

TRADUCCION EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PARTE POSTERIOR

COMMISSIONERS

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Chair, District 3 Debbie O'Malley, Vice Chair, District 1
Steven Michael Quezada, Member, District 2 Lonnie C. Talbert, Member, District 4 Charlene E. Pyskoty, Member, District 5

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Tanya R. Giddings, Assessor Linda Stover, Clerk Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul, Probate Judge Manuel Gonzales III, Sheriff Nancy M. Bearce, Treasurer

COUNTY MANAGER

Julie Morgas Baca