[DATE]

[NAME OF MAYOR/VICE-MAYOR/COUNCILOR/HEAD OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE]

[TITLE/POSITION]

[CITY/MUNICIPALITY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_]

Dear [NAME]:

I am writing as a concerned resident and voter of [NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OF CITY]. Our home has an observable mismanagement of household wastes, particularly single-use plastic bags. I believe we can agree that this is not how we would want our [name of city/municipality] to be known and recognized for.

In 2015, a scientific study named the Philippines as the third on the list of countries dumping plastic in the ocean. If we continue business as usual, it has been predicted that there would be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. This is not the future we want for ourselves, our home, and for future generations.

In this light, I would like to propose an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS ON DRY GOODS, REGULATING ITS USE ON WET GOODS AND PROHIBITING THE USE OF POLYSTYRENE IN THE CITY/MUNCIPALITY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND PRESCRIBING THE PENALTIES THEREOF.”

If and when the city/municipality of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ takes heed of this environmental concern and adapts an ordinance banning plastic and polystyrene, it would send an incredibly powerful message to the entire nation that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will no longer be a city/municipality that mismanages wastes and instead be one that *prevents* it. The proposed ban must be accompanied by a public awareness campaign, and an appropriate time period to phase out these materials.

Other local government units show that with strong political will and a massive information campaign, a ban on plastic bags and polystyrene packaging can be done. The city of Los Baños was the trailblazer in 2008 when Municipal Ordinance 2008-752 entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Plastic Bags on Dry Goods and Regulating Its Utilization on Wet Goods and Prohibiting the Use of Styrofoam in the Municipality of Los Baños and Prescribing Penalties Thereof” was passed. Muntinlupa also passed City Ordinance 2010-109 entitled, “An Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Plastic Bags on Dry Goods, Regulating its Utilization on Wet Goods and Prohibiting the Use of Styrofoam/Styrophor in the City of Muntinlupa.”

It is important to note that this proposed ban should just be part of the grander scheme that is called ecological solid waste management. [IF APPLICABLE: The City/Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not appear to be in compliance with the intent and objectives of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003). It mandates, among others, that there must be mandatory segregation of wastes at source[[1]](#footnote-1) and that waste that is not properly separated must not be collected.[[2]](#footnote-2) While there has been some effort to implement the provisions of the law, these still fall short of what is mandated.] And this proposed ban, if passed, should only be a step towards that. The city/municipality of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should take the lead in environmental compliance.

We hope that this letter will merit your kind consideration. The most basic element of community building and of nation building is discipline, and the most basic form of discipline is cleanliness of self and of surrounding.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind and expeditious action on the matter.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Yours truly,

[NAME]

[CONTACT INFORMATION]

1. RA 9003, Art. II, Sec. 21 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. RA 9003, Chapt. VI, Sec. 48 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Under Republic Act 9485, also known as the Anti-Red Tape Law, public officials are given 10 days within which to reply and report on the actions taken. Please see also Republic Act 6713, Republic Act 3019, and other pertinent laws on Public Accountability. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)