

**STATEMENT FROM THE AMERICAN PROGRESSIVE BAG ALLIANCE ON THE RESULTS OF PROPOSITIONS 65 AND 67 IN CALIFORNIA**

**SACRAMENTO, CALIF.** – The American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA) issued the following statement from Executive Director Lee Califf in response to the results of Propositions 65 and 67:

“With the narrow approval of Proposition 67 California voters have unfortunately set themselves up for a serious case of buyer’s remorse. Plastic bag bans don’t meaningfully reduce overall waste or litter or provide a positive environmental impact, but they do threaten tens of thousands of American manufacturing jobs, hit consumers in the wallet and drive people to use less environmentally friendly carryout options.

The referendum on SB 270 offered voters a chance to reject a terribly misguided law to ban one hundred percent recyclable, highly reused plastic retail bags and allow grocers to charge a minimum 10 cents each for paper and thicker plastic bags provided at the checkout. At the end of the day, the only “green” element of this law was the hundreds of millions of dollars grocers stood to profit from the mandated bag fees.

Unfortunately, California voters also said “no” to Proposition 65, which would have ensured that all bag fees collected under SB 270 would have gone to a special fund to support worthy environmental programs in the form of grants administered by the California Wildlife Conservation Board. Local governments with existing ordinances would have also had the option to redirect bag fees from grocers to the environmental fund.

While we are disappointed in the narrow passage of Prop. 67, we are even more disappointed that voters said “no” to Prop. 65. Now, instead of bag fees going to an environmental fund, grocers will keep hundreds of millions of dollars in new profits without providing any public benefit. This type of special interest giveaway cloaked in false environmentalism sets a terrible public policy precedent – one that Californians will likely soon regret at the checkout.”

###

**About the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA)**

The American Progressive Bag Alliance was founded in 2005 to represent the United States' plastic bag manufacturing and recycling sector, employing 30,800 workers in 349 communities across the nation. APBA promotes the responsible use, reuse, recycling and disposal of plastic bags and advocates for American-made plastic products as the best environmental choice at check out—for both retailers and consumers.

Paid for by American Progressive Bag Alliance, a Project of the Society of the Plastics Industry – Yes on 65 and No on 67, with Committee Contributors including Hilex Poly Co., LLC, Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A., Advanced Polybag, Inc. and Superbag