



**Association of Idaho Cities**  
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**March 9, 2016**

**To: Members of the Senate Local Government & Taxation Committee**  
**From: Seth Grigg, Executive Director**  
**RE: Association of Idaho Cities Opposes House Bill 372 on Auxiliary Containers**

The Association of Idaho Cities respectfully asks that House Bill 372 on auxiliary containers be held in committee.

There are currently no cities or counties in Idaho that regulate auxiliary containers. The City of Blackfoot was approached by a high school student last year about banning plastic bags and the city council listened respectfully and then rejected the proposal. An initiative regulating plastic bags proposed by students at Wood River High School in 2011 was rejected by voters in the City of Hailey.

Many city mayors and council members are business owners themselves and understand the impacts that regulations have on business. City elected officials have no desire to burden businesses with unnecessary regulations.

Our concern with House Bill 372 is that the bill imposes a one-size-fits-all policy that does not adequately reflect the diversity of Idaho's 200 cities. Resort communities that rely on tourism have vastly different needs and concerns than communities with agriculture, timber or mining economies.

The tourists who come to spend time in our resort communities have high expectations. Pristine lakes and rivers, scenic mountains, and clean and inviting downtown areas are part of the allure of communities like Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene, McCall and Sun Valley. These communities have to meet high expectations for these visitors to return. Litter, in the form of plastic bags and bottles, is exactly what these tourists don't want to see.

If House Bill 372 were to become law, a city or county would be prohibited from enacting any regulations, even if the policy was requested by local businesses.

Local elected officials have their community's best interests at heart and we should respect their ability to represent their community.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of House Bill 372 and respectfully ask that the bill be held in committee.