



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Shawn Hamilton**  
Secretary

December 27, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
Plaza Level 5, The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Honorable Wilton Simpson  
President, Florida Senate  
409 The Capitol  
404 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Chris Sprowls  
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives  
420 The Capitol  
402 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Simpson and Speaker Sprowls:

Pursuant to Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) respectfully submits the enclosed report updating the 2010 Retail Bags Report; analyzing the need for new or different regulation of auxiliary containers, wrappings or disposable plastic bags used by consumers to carry products from retail establishments.

DEP contracted with the University of Florida (UF) to review and update the 2010 Retail Bags Report. The enclosed report provides updated information and analysis, including impacts to the environment and options for managing retail bags/auxiliary containers and wrappings, based on research from UF. The report also provides survey results and stakeholder recommendations from state and local government agencies, stakeholders, private businesses, and citizens.

The report finds that the situation surrounding retail bags/auxiliary containers and wrappings remains similar to that observed in 2010. While the vast majority of these plastics are either landfilled, combusted or recycled, some are mismanaged and end up as litter, including in Florida's marine environment. Scientific evidence of the potential harms of plastics in the environment has increased since 2010, as has public awareness of

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the issue. Currently Florida residents have options for recycling plastic retail bags and similar film plastics, but depending on product type and location, options for auxiliary containers are more limited.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Tim Bahr, Director of DEP's Division of Waste Management at (850) 245-8790.

Sincerely,



Shawn Hamilton  
Secretary

cc: John Truitt, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs  
Tim Bahr, Director, Division of Waste Management