



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #16

Banning the Use of Single Use Plastic Straws in the Food Service Industry in the State of Alaska

Submitted by: Katie Gray and Kira Fagerstrom

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:


1. **Whereas**, last year in the U.S., 390 million single use plastic straws were used and disposed of everyday;¹
2. **Whereas**, a single plastic straw can take 200 years to decompose, and while doing so release toxins into the environment;²
3. **Whereas**, most recycling centers are unable to recycle plastic straws due to their size, causing further buildup of waste in landfills;³
4. **Whereas**, plastic straws make up 3.16% of ocean waste recovered worldwide, and 1% of ocean waste recovered in Alaska;⁴
5. **Whereas**, the State of California has passed a bill limiting the use of plastic straws in full service restaurants;⁵
6. **Whereas**, major corporations such as Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Disney, Starbucks, and McDonald's have taken strides to limit their plastic straw use;⁶
7. **Whereas**, there are several environmentally friendly alternative options to plastic straws for the food service industry, such as paper, bamboo, or other sustainably sourced plant products;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments opposes the continued use of single use plastic straws in the Food Service Industry in the State of Alaska.

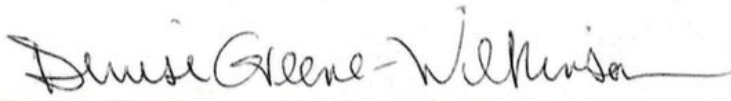
Sources:

1. <https://get-green-now.com/environmental-impact-plastic-straws>
2. <https://rubbishwhisperer.co.nz/blogs/news/plastic-pla-paper-and-steel-straws-what-is-the-real-difference>
3. <https://livegreen.recyclebank.com/because-you-asked-what-s-so-bad-about-plastic-straws>
4. <http://www.coastalcleanupdata.org>
5. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1884
6. <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.delish.com/food-news/amp22130147/plastic-straw-ban/>

Passed by the fall 2018 General Assembly at Skagway of the Alaska Association of Student Governments.



Vice President, Kyle Hasse



Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson