The provisions of section 59 of the proposed Bill will INCREASE the waste generated in Scotland, rather than reduce it. This was clearly agreed and acknowledged in 2006 when the Bill for the introduction of a levy on plastic bags was finally rejected by ALL members of the Committee at Holyrood which was charged with investigating it. Government and Parliament agreed that an extra 13,500 tonnes of waste would arise resulting in the Bill being thrown out by a unanimous all party committee in 2006.

Since then matters have gone from bad to worse, with the supermarkets introducing heavyweight jute, cotton, polypropylene and other types of bags with greater weight and bulk than those bags they purported to replace. Even with a 50% reduction in the NUMBER of bags used in Scotland every year, it is estimated that with the products actually in the market place the weight of the products used will increase from 10,600 tonnes per annum to 38,400 tonnes per annum. Even worse, the bulk of these products will increase from 27,000 cubic meters to 232,000 cubic meters annually. This means we have to transport this bulk around the country using more transport and when it all goes to landfill or to recycling centres, then we will need not 76,000 pallets full of material but 639,000 pallets full of material to do so.

The Climate Change Bill is supposed to reduce Carbon emissions, the inclusion of this section 59 will INCREASE these emissions as well as further damage our infrastructure and our environment.

This clause must be removed in its entirety if the Government is serious about reducing the effects of Climate Change. I strongly object the inclusion of this Section 59 in the proposed Bill.

J Doyle
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