AF&PA advocates for market-based policies and consumer choice in packaging materials. We oppose mandates and taxes on recyclable and reusable paper and paper-based packaging products.

**Paper Bags are Recyclable, Reusable, Compostable and Made from a Renewable Resource**

- 96 percent of the U.S. population has access to community paper and paperboard recycling programs.
- The U.S. paper recovery rate reached 68.1 percent in 2018 — meeting or exceeding 63 percent for the past 10 years.
- Paper bags are ideal containers to use for composting residential yard and food waste; and are compostable themselves.
- Paper bags are made from a renewable resource — trees. The U.S. grows more trees than it harvests; in fact, there are 20 percent more trees in the U.S. now than there was on the first Earth Day in 1970.
- **Global demand drives paper recovery, not government mandates.** Global demand for recovered fiber has been growing at a rapid rate. Global recovered paper demand increased at an average rate of 1.3 percent a year from 2012 to 2017 and is expected by RISI\(^1\) to increase an average of 1.8 percent a year from 2017 through 2022.
- Local and state governments should partner with industry, environmental groups and consumers on programs to increase paper recovery.

**Taxing Paper Bags is Not a Solution**

- **Government-imposed product taxes increase costs for consumers.** Taxes are regressive and disproportionately impact those who are low-income.
- **Imposing a tax on paper products discourages consumers** from using products that are recyclable, compostable, made of recycled material, and reusable.
- **Government legislation is unnecessary** – retailers are already free to charge for any product provided to a consumer. Government mandated fees create a new source of revenue for one type of businesses at the expense of another.
- **Paper bags are a convenient choice for consumers** who rely on public transit or do not have access to a car.
- Government-imposed taxes remitted to the retailer influences procurement decisions and creates an unlevel playing field.

Endnotes: \(^1\)RISI, World Pulp & Recovered Paper Forecast, May 2018 data