Healthcare and County Operations Committee  
Miami Dade County, Florida

January 20, 2020

Re: In Support of Reducing and Eliminating Miami-Dade County’s Purchase of Single-Use Plastics

Dear Committee Members,

I am the owner of Rickenbacker Marina, Inc., a business in Miami-Dade County, and I am writing in support of the initiative to reduce or eliminate the single-use plastics purchased by Miami-Dade County.

As a waterfront business in Miami, my revenue is heavily dependent upon tourism and recreation. Countless studies detail the aesthetic, environmental, and health-related impacts of disposable plastics on tourism for cities, and there is no question that plastic pollution in Miami’s waterways, beaches, and streets directly impacts my business. Accordingly, I have made the decision to transition away from single-use plastic products within my business to support our local economy, now and into the future. Additionally, I have convinced our restaurant tenants and some of the neighboring hospitality, and food and beverage, businesses to do the same.

Since replacing single-use plastics with compostable or reusable products, I have recovered the initial costs, set up the business for long-term savings, and undoubtedly built a stronger business reputation with the respect and admiration of our customers and community. It simply feels good knowing that I have a part in preserving our County’s most precious resources, our coastal communities and waterfront.

As a coastal community, Miami’s businesses and consumers are amongst the first and most profoundly affected by plastic pollution. It’s our responsibility to lead the sustainable transition away from these clearly harmful disposables, and many low-cost alternatives to single-use plastics are currently available and easily incorporated into businesses of all kinds.

This legislation has the potential to significantly reduce our County’s contribution to the overwhelming amount of debris in South Florida’s waterways and beaches. Thus, I am writing you in support of educating and empowering our businesses on the emerging opportunities for more sustainable business practices through your leadership.
We simply cannot continue to rely on persistent materials for our single-use needs. I ask the Committee to not remain idle and, rather, utilize this opportunity to elevate the health, well-being, and productivity of Miami-Dade County.

Yours on the water,

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