



## 2019 STRAW BAN POLICY

The Delaware Restaurant Association's goal is to educate members about their options and help provide the tools and information they need to make the appropriate decision for their business and brand. We support the restaurants' commitment to environmental and green practices in their businesses. We support and applaud a voluntary approach over government mandates, which allows restaurants to implement policies that work best for their brands and customers.

### RESTAURANT TRENDS

- Majority of restaurant operators are recycling
- Restaurants are moving away from single-use packaging and towards re-usable/washable packaging products
- The restaurant industry is using 50 percent paper and 50 percent plastic for their foodservice packaging needs

### RESEARCH

According to Keep America Beautiful, the vast majority of litter happens as the result of someone purposely littering. Whether the straw is made of paper or plastic, it should be disposed of responsibly. **Only 4% of the U.S.' plastic trash is made up of plastic straws. (See Exhibit 1)**

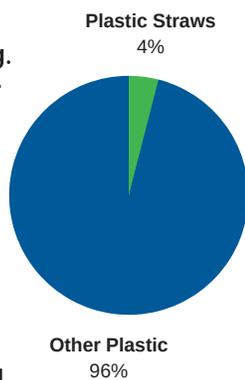


EXHIBIT 1

A University of Delaware study that was sent out to 70 restaurants, both members and non-members, asking if they believe individual restaurants should have the right to choose their environmental practices or do you support a government mandate banning plastics? The overwhelming majority (70%) of those restaurants participating believe that it should remain a voluntary based approach, not a mandate approach. (See Exhibit 2)

### University of Delaware Straw Ban Survey

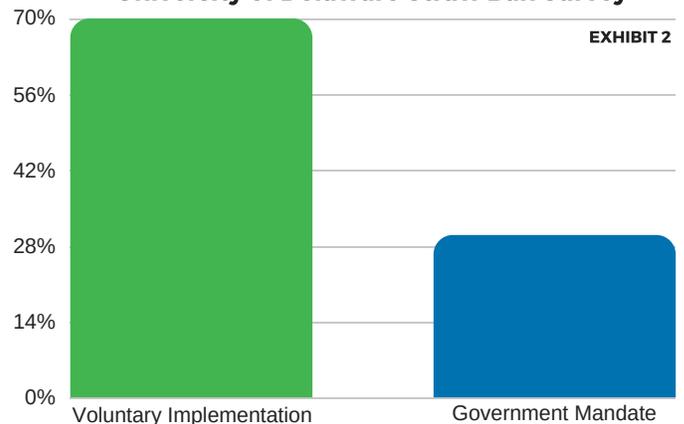


EXHIBIT 2

### GENERAL TALKING POINTS

- Cities and local governments should instead invest in recycling and composting infrastructure to help recover plastic items like packaging and straws.
- Ultimately foodservice operators and their customers should decide whether or not they want to offer/use a straw.
- Straws may be needed to prevent spills - consider children learning to drink from a cup or people with physical impairments
- Straws are also convenient when consuming a beverage on the go, either walking down the street or driving in the car. While we do not support distracted driving, the reality is people do drink beverages in their cars, and using a straw allows for eyes to stay focused on the road
- Regulations do not limit plastic straw alternatives to one choice, such as paper, and allows for new innovation and technology growth in the marketplace.