

State Supreme Court declines to hear appeal on bag and foam container bans

By Bruce Ritchie

02/12/2020 06:44 PM EST

The Florida Supreme Court today, without comment, declined to consider an appeal by Coral Gables after a state appellate court overturned local bans on plastic bags and foam containers.

A few cities and counties across Florida [had adopted bans on plastic bags and and polystyrene foam containers](#) — which environmentalists say threaten waterways and aquatic life — after a state Circuit Court ruling in the Coral Gables case in 2017 threw out legislative preemptions on local regulation of the products. The 3rd District Court of Appeal reinstated the preemptions in 2019.

Coral Gables City Attorney Miriam Soler Ramos told POLITICO the state [Supreme Court decision](#) not to hear the case was disappointing because it affects the city's ability to address concerns of its residents. But merchants and consumers complied with the city bans and most continued to do so after they were overturned, she said.

"It is our sincere hope that the use of harmful products such as polystyrene and single-use plastic bags does not resume," Ramos said.

Attorney General Ashley Moody had sided with the Florida Retail Federation and Super Progreso Inc. in a brief arguing that the Florida Supreme Court should not consider the appeal.