Darby Creek Valley Association March 2021

RESOLUTION OF [INSERT MUNICIPALITY] OF [INSERT COUNTY], PENNSYLVANIA TO FURTHER REDUCE THE USAGE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS THROUGHOUT THE MUNICIPALITY BY SUPPORTING INITIATIVES WITHIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE DARBY CREEK WATERSHED TO LESSEN THE USAGE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN ORDER TO LIMIT THEIR WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE, AND HUMAN LIFE

WHEREAS single-use plastics are harmful to our environment and health as they do not fully degrade in our oceans or land environments.

WHEREAS the production of single-use plastics must be limited because of their excessive use in mainstream society and harmful long-term effects.

WHEREAS, according to Earth Network’s single-use plastic fact sheet, nearly half of the 355 million metric tons of plastic produced in 2016 were single-use plastics.

WHEREAS, according to that same fact sheet, Americans purchase around 50 billion water bottles each year, throw away 100 billion plastic bags annually, and worldwide half a million straws are used every day, while almost one million plastic beverage bottles are sold every minute; therefore cutting down on these rates would greatly lessen single-use plastic pollution.

WHEREAS, at the current rate of plastic waste, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean, further perpetuating harm to marine ecosystems and the subsequent related repercussions.

WHEREAS, according to National Geographic, 44% of all plastic ever manufactured has been made after the year 2000, exemplifying the rising rates of single-use plastic production that contribute to this issue but would be lessened by lower single-use plastic consumption rates.

WHEREAS, according to Greenpeace, only 9% of single-use plastics are recycled, exemplifying how the solution to the overuse of single-use plastics resides in limiting consumption, as opposed to recycling.

WHEREAS it is in the public interest for the Council to encourage and enable fewer single-use plastic items to exist within the local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF [MUNICIPALITY], PENNSYLVANIA:

[Name of Municipality] is committed to promoting the long-term goal of reducing plastic pollution and its harms on our fragile environment and is committed to ensuring a healthy, beautiful, and safe environment for current and future residents and visitors.

[Name of Municipality] hereby supports initiatives to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastics by supporting and promoting reusable alternatives. More specifically, eliminating the use of single-use plastic bags, straws, and Styrofoam containers.

[Name of Municipality] supports State Legislature action to allow local municipalities in the State of Pennsylvania to regulate their own local communities in an effort to alleviate the harms caused by single-use plastic and therefore opposes any statewide preemption on local efforts to determine the best course of action with regard to protection of the local environment.