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## Making Philly green suffers another setback

**CITY HALL.** Sorry Philadelphia, doesn't look like you'll ever be as environmentally-friendly as San Francisco.

"San Francisco does a lot we don't do," said Councilman Frank Rizzo, one of 10 Council members who voted against a ban on plastic bags in city stores Thursday. "In my opinion, it's not the best to compare Philadelphia to San Francisco."

No one will likely mistake Philadelphia lawmakers anytime soon for those in the liberal West Coast city that has passed a host of green-friendly measures. The bag ban failed even though it was approved by a Council committee last week instead of an earlier proposal for a 25-cent per bag tax.

"Philadelphia seems to be lagging behind in many areas to cities around the country," Councilman Jim Kenney said, noting how "disheartening" the 10-6 vote was. "I don't know why."

One lobbyist for the ban said the vote shows how difficult it can be to convince a governing body to be proactive.

"I think change is always difficult and I think its easier to do nothing instead of something," Joseph Otis Minott of the Clean Air Council said. "They can do the right thing. It's just that I don't know that if I gauged the overall interest in City Council that environmental issues would be very high."

The unusually close vote included Republican Councilmen Frank Rizzo and Jack Kelly, switching from "yes" votes in a committee hearing to a "no" vote Thursday. Kenney alluded to an especially strong lobbying effort by the bag manufacturing industry. He called for a boycott of ShopRite stores owned by Jeff Brown, who also lobbied against the measure.

**Brian X. McCrone**

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