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February 19, 2019

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
RE: HB 2509

Chair Helm and members of the committee:

My name is Carla Piluso, and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 2509, which ends the use of single-use plastic bags in Oregon. We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. As state leaders, we have the responsibility to protect the natural resources our environment and economy depend on.

As you will hear today, single-use plastic bags are harmful to our state. They float in our waterways, including Johnson Creek in my district, and turn up on our beaches and in our oceans, where they injure sensitive wildlife.

But this isn't just a "green" issue. Last summer, I toured a sorting facility in southeast Portland that serves my district. I saw firsthand just how much *stuff* there is in our recycling stream that doesn't belong there—including and especially plastic bags. I heard from managers at the facility that plastic bags in our recycling system threaten their ability to do business, and threaten Oregon's ability to recycle at all.

Sixteen cities and towns have already passed ordinances regulating plastic bags. It's now time to take statewide action.

HB 2509 is a balanced policy that avoids loopholes and doesn't burden business or consumers. You'll hear from an unlikely coalition of environmentalists and businesses today that this is a policy we can agree on, and one that is good for our entire state.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I ask for your support of HB 2509.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50