

To the Committee:

We are writing, as residents of Yamhill County, in strong support of HB 2509, banning the use of single use plastic bags in most cases. Already several cities have passed such ordinances, and it is my understanding that several more are in process. We are part of a group in Newberg that has strong support in the community for a plastic bag ban, and if this measure fails we will proceed with working on passing a local ordinance, but it seems much more practical to just go ahead and pass it at the state level. Consistency across the state seems like a good thing.

We have been using cloth or heavy plastic re-usable bags for several years. Once you get in the habit, they are far more convenient than flimsy plastic. They are always in the car, and are useful for other things as well, not just groceries! People think plastic bags are convenient, but they aren't, really. They are annoyingly flimsy, they break too often with everything falling on the ground, and then one has to deal with them when you bring them home. Recycle? Ha. We know they end up in the landfill. We know that they mess up recycling sorting machines. We know that the city of McMinnville gets a higher price for their recycling than other communities, because it is completely free of plastic bags. I followed a garbage truck over Chehalem Mountain once and watched the plastic bags fly away into the landscape.

Especially with the provision that low income people will not have to pay for paper bags, this seems like a very reasonable bill to us, and we would very much like to see it pass. We really must take strong measures to clean up all the plastic in our environment, and this seems like a very reasonable beginning. We know you will hear lots of complaints from people who think they should have the choice to use whatever bag they want. But there are some things that people should not have the personal freedom to make a choice about, and those are things that do harm to others and to the general well being, and foul our collective environment. Plastic has clearly shown itself to be harmful to the environment, sea creatures, animals, birds and people. It is showing up in our bodies! Enough is enough, and no one has the right to destroy our environment so that our grandchildren will not have a safe earth to live on.

Thank you very much for your favorable consideration of this legislation!

Sincerely,

Joni Zimmerman and Richard Logghe  
Newberg, Oregon