



February 19, 2019

To: Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Paloma Sparks, Oregon Business & Industry
RE: OBI Testimony on HB 2509

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this important issue for Oregon Business & Industry members. OBI is Oregon's most comprehensive business association representing approximately 1,600 businesses that employ nearly 330,000 people. We represent multiple sectors and serve as the state's Retail and Manufacturing Councils.

While we understand and support the intent of the bill, which could limit the negative impacts of plastic on the environment, we do have some concerns.

OBI and our retail members are concerned that the bill does not take into account the types of "plastic bags" that are used in our regular operations. For example, plastic garment bags are often provided to customers at check out to protect their purchases. Dry cleaning businesses also would be similarly impacted if this is not addressed. These sorts of bags should be afforded the same exception as are provided for some other bags in the bill as currently written.

Additionally, this bill still appears to allow cities to pass their own bag bans and impose additional fees on customers. We believe that if a state plastic bag ban is passed it should be the only plastic bag ban for retailers and customers comply with.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you to address these issues.