



HB2509 – Bag Ban Bill Representative Chris Gorsek

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Malstrom and Reschke, members of the House Energy and Environment Committee, for the record I'm Rep. Chris Gorsek from House District 49. Thank you for allowing me to have time to speak with you about HB 2509.

I have been interested and discussed a single use plastic bag ban with advocates since I was first elected in 2012 and I'm very pleased that the stakeholders and public opinion have converged to further this effort.

Mayor Tosterud from Fairview started a process about a year ago that looped in all the municipalities in my district to form a consensus that a state ban would be better for the environment and help businesses with compliance. In support of this consensus I've included as exhibits in testimony articles from our local paper quoting the mayor of Troutdale and their city council supporting state action on this topic.

I've included a list of the legislative priorities of the Metro Council including East County's Councilor Shirley Craddick.

There are also letters of support from Multnomah County Commissioner Stegmann, the mayor of Wood Village, Scott Harden, former Fairview Mayor Ted Tosterud, Gresham City Councilors Mario Palmero and Eddy Morales as well as Reynolds School Board member Ricki Ruiz.

I believe this wide and varied group of elected supporters speaks to the importance this has to my constituents. We're seeing increasing demands from our districts that we make substantive changes to reduce our impact on the environment.

This is such a small inconvenience for most people and when you consider that just among the three small municipalities in my district, we'll be able to discontinue the use of 9 million single use plastic bags per year.



I would also add that my father was a lifelong member of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Union so when I see an opportunity to increase paper bag production I think that's an effort worth making. We make paper bags in Oregon, not plastic which makes this a jobs bill as much as an environmental effort.