



April 24, 2019

Representative Ken Helm
Committee on Energy and Environment, Chair
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, OR 97301:

Re: SB 90

Surfrider Foundation appreciates the opportunity to provide the committee members with comments on SB 90, a bill relating to the restriction of plastic straw distribution to consumers. The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, representing over 4,000 supporters, volunteers and members in Oregon. As one of the nation's leading advocacy organizations working to mitigate the harms of plastic pollution through volunteerism, stewardship and policy, Surfrider appreciates the early intentions of this legislation; however, due to several factors our members and supporters are unable to support the bill at this time, but are not actively opposing the legislation.

Surfrider Foundation has just begun to explore straw policy at the local level with our chapters and as such, we are not well equipped to take definitive positions on this statewide strategy in its current form. We are still in the learning process with our Portland Chapter's work with the City of Portland's new ordinance but none of our other coastal chapters have gone beyond working with businesses on a volunteer basis. Thus, we are early in our understanding of implementation. We do appreciate the state's interest in taking action on this issue, as we do believe in time, there is merit in a statewide strategy to reduce consumerism and related pollution of single-use straws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Plybon".

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation
cplybon@surfrider.org