

Dear Mrs. Sollman,

We are Lucy, Sadie, and Stella. We are in 4th grade, in the Beaverton School District. We would like you and other lawmakers to support Senate Bill 90 which would reduce the usage of plastic straws. It would be better if people stopped using plastic in general. However, we feel like this bill is a step in the right direction. Plastic straws are hurtful to the environment. They get stuck in turtles' noses. You may think that the turtles may be stupid for this, but they are not, really it is whomever used the straws fault. Now imagine, if you were a turtle and you got a straw stuck up your nose, how would you feel? We'll give our honest opinion. We would panic. We would try to get the plastic straw out of our nose. We would struggle in the water. We would try to get it out. We would try to get to land, but it may be no use. We may die, with the plastic straw in our nose. All this may be running through our mind. This is a scary thing. Videos have been shown of a turtle with a straw stuck up their nose. The process of getting it out is bloody and painful.

It's time for more about plastic. Plastic can also hurt birds. Sometimes birds eat plastic, thinking it is food. Later on in life, they die from it. Plastic clogs their digestive system. It fills their lungs. People have cut open birds' stomachs to see plastic, plastic bottle caps, plastic soda holders, and plastic straws. These birds died from plastic. It killed them. It murdered them.

Plastic straws can also be harmful to people. Plastic straws never really decompose. They just turn into something called microplastics. Fish eat microplastics, and we eat the fish. The plastic gets in our system. You may very well have plastic in you right now. After you digest the plastic, and go to the bathroom, the plastic gets back in the ecosystem, and the journey can start all over again.

There are other ways that plastic can hurt people. Using plastic straws can also lead to cavities. When you drink through a straw, sugar and more air gather on or around your teeth. It can cause cavities in your teeth, and in your gums. Cavities may not seem like much, but they can be very, very painful, and very, very, bad.

Please support Senate Bill 90 and reduce the use of plastic straws in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Sadie LeGassick,
Stella LeGassick,
Lucy Bekken