

My name is Carissa Bonham and I am a green and sustainable lifestyle advocate. I operate a website called Creative Green Living where I teach families how to make easy swaps for healthier, more sustainable habits. I also have regular television appearances where I do the same. Fitting for this discussion, my most recent TV segment was in KATU's Go Green special for Earth Day teaching people how to make reusable shopping bags from t-shirts.

The world has a plastics problem. Plastic bags fill our oceans - many congregating in the (not so) Great Pacific Garbage patch, filling the bellies of sea life and reaching even the deepest parts of the Ocean.

Representative Sollman, one of the chief sponsors of this bill, is my representative and I could not be more proud as her constituent that she brought this bill forward.

If we all focus on what we can do, collectively that adds up to have a large impact. I hope that Oregon passes legislation to do our part in significantly reducing our use of plastic bags and therefore plastic bag pollution generated by Oregon consumers. In my opinion, this type of legislation is long overdue.

While I mostly love the bill due to the significant impact it will have on reducing plastic bag pollution, I do have one concern.

**I do not feel that the \$0.05 or more fee for bags should be codified into law. I also disagree with having a limit on how many days a year a retail outlet can provide complimentary bags to their customers.**

Many shops have already done away with single use plastic check out bags and provide complimentary paper bags to customers. They should be allowed to continue doing so.

The cost for bags is an area I believe the market can and should self-regulate. If a retailer believes the cost to provide recycled paper or other reusable bags to their customers is too great a burden to absorb, they should be **allowed** charge a fee to customers but should not be required to do so.

**Please adopt an amendment to remove the requirement for retail establishments to charge a fee for bags and vote the bill onto the senate with a do-Pass recommendation.**

Thank you,

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