

Dear Representatives and committee members,

We started our campaign to SUCKLESS at Strawless Oregon to ask for legislation to reduce single use plastics waste. The most used and abused single use plastic; straws, utensils, cups, stir sticks, polystyrene take out containers and plastic bags. For convenience sake, something used for mere minutes shouldn't last many hundreds of years, or In the case of polystyrene, even thousands of years in our environment.

Why plastic bags should be banned:

Plastic bags pose a threat to humans as street waste clogging curb side drainage turns to an environment for mosquito infestations. Because they're light weight they easily travel by wind to waterways, oceans and into trees so deer and wildlife are at risk. Plastic bags are mistaken for sea turtle's favorite food the jelly fish. Bags are a deadly threat to sea birds, whales and other marine life when ingested or trapped in them.

A petroleum product, plastic bags are costly to the environment. The plastic bag's life cycle from raw materials extraction, production, distribution and clean up is costing our state and nation many millions of dollars. Plastic Bags mess up and clog machinery at recycle facilities. Often ending up in land fill unrecycled and degrading over hundreds of years and toxic to that environment.

We ask that you lead other states by being an example, and pass HB 2509 to help curb the tide of single use plastic, especially bags, here in our beautiful state of Oregon.

With kind regards,

Cindy and Brennen Matherly
StrawlessOregon@gmail.com
www.StrawlessOregon.org