



Mayor
Scott Harden

Council President
Patricia Smith

Councilor
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Councilor
John Miner

Councilor
Brian Loy

Honorable Chair Ginny Burdick
Honorable Senator Jackie Winters
Honorable Senator Lee Byer
Honorable Senator Brian Boquist
Honorable Senator Arnie Roblin

Dear Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments,

You hold in your committee the fate of HB 2509 which proposes a statewide ban on single use plastic bags. Fourteen Oregon cities have passed city wide bans. Wood Village is poised to act if the legislature fails to pass a ban, and we have a draft code ready to adopt.

Our code does not include a mandatory fee and does not prohibit a fee either. The stakeholders we interviewed in our city are not in favor of a fee. We sent testimony to your colleagues in the house begrudgingly accepting the potential for a five-cent fee. We oppose the potential for a 10-cent fee. We wonder what the reason is for putting a more onerous fee on low income Oregonians for whom making the switch to reusable bags could be cost prohibitive. Statistically, a five-cent fee is enough to significantly change behaviors.

The bill passed the house 42-18. A two thirds yes vote on a bill that has already had a work session and a good deal of public testimony should be an excellent indication that bill is fine as amended. I doubt it needs a specific senatorial touch before passage.

Oregon's bag ban cities and their stakeholders are crying for a consistent, state-wide bill that removes the differences in the various city plans. The house version of 2509 meets their needs. We urge an immediate move to the floor for a vote.

Warm Regards,

T. Scott Harden