



Date: February 12, 2021

To: Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Bill Perry, Lobbyist for
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

Subject: SB 14 – Plastic Packaging and Plastic Food Serviceware – Opposition Request

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association has significant concerns with SB 14 and the new process that it develops.

Oregon has been on the “leading edge” of many laws in the past. Many of these laws are well intended and try to achieve a noble purpose but it is important to note, Oregon is a very small market in the country made up primarily of small independent businesses and franchisees.

Most of the costs around these “innovative” ideas fall first on operators, then on the consumer to absorb. The “producers” who will be required to pay for the creation and operation of these new programs include anyone who makes, imports, distributes or sells a “covered product.”

Every store, restaurant, warehouse, manufacturing facility or delivery service will be impacted and required to help pay for these new programs to a small market like Oregon. Ultimately, it will be consumers who will eventually bear much of the burden by paying these costs through higher prices. This will apply to all types of plastic packaging used to “contain” or “protect” products, including bags, cans, bottles, plates, take-out containers, wrappings, etc.

Our members have already incurred increased costs due to shifting so much of their business to take-out. Supply expenses have drastically increased due to take-out costs and higher protein prices, resulting in higher restaurant operating costs. Follow that with a doubling of unemployment rates, which are expected to go even higher next year with all the layoffs from December being applied to our experience ratings, and the viability of hospitality businesses in Oregon is in jeopardy.

On behalf of the hospitality industry in Oregon, we are asking that the Committee please let the dust settle on our current economic crisis before creating new programs that will affect our industry’s supply chain. Let other states that are a bigger part of the market share take the lead to try and socialize the cost. Do we need to do this now, is the fair question we are asking?

Now is not the time, our industry is trying to rebound and get people back to work!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Perry", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bill Perry, Advocate for Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association