

February 10, 2023

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support Senate Bill 545, Legalizing reusables

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

As a north Oregon coast resident, I urge you to support Senate Bill 545, legalizing reusables in food establishments. Many of us were surprised to find out what we regularly do at our local restaurants and grocery stores isn't technically legal. This bill will fix that and help us to reduce single use plastics in Oregon.

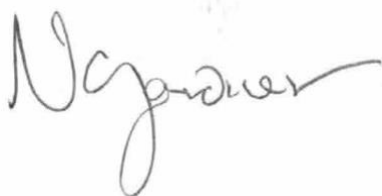
As someone who regularly picks up plastic items on the beach regularly, I know firsthand how it is hurting people and wildlife. Plastics are the top items found polluting Oregon's beaches. Plastic pollution is an eyesore on our beaches. Our coastal communities rely on tourism. This pollution hurts our ability to attract and retain visitors. And residents don't like it either! We live here largely because it is beautiful and pristine. As it becomes less so, coastal life and visitation is less attractive.

Plastic readily breaks into small pieces, which we are unable to clean up. Wildlife eats it and inevitably some of it is then eaten by people as part of shellfish and fish we eat.

This bill will allow people to bring their own containers to groceries and restaurants for bulk food and leftovers, reducing use of plastic containers and bags.

Thank you for supporting SB 545, for us and for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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