

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 544, Source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging

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 544 that directs the Environmental Quality Commission to establish program for source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging and achieve 25 percent source reductions compared to 2023 levels by 2030.

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.

As a consumer, I do all I can to reduce my plastic use, but it is used for so much. We cannot avoid it unless businesses change their packaging, foodware, and other uses.

This bill will help to reduce plastic at its source. So far as a state, we have only focused on consumer reductions (e.g., plastic bag ban), but for more meaningful change, we need to turn it off at the tap. This new program will do just that.

Thank you for supporting SB 544, for us and for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nadia Gardner".

Nadia Gardner
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