

Submitter: Betty Shelley  
On Behalf Of: Reduce Your Waste Project  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB545

I strongly favor the enactment of SB 545 which directs the State Department of Agriculture and Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules allowing consumers to take their own containers to restaurants and grocery stores. Since 2006, my husband and I have generated just one can of garbage a year. One of the ways we accomplished this is by avoiding single-use packaging.

As I understand it, in 2012 the ODA adopted the USDA's law that prevents customers from bringing their own reusable containers to restaurants and grocery stores. This law is unnecessarily cautious and creates a burden on the customers who wish to avoid wasteful packaging and the stores that sell in bulk. How much more waste must go sit in a landfill forever before we realize that single-use packaging is using up the planet's resources? The upstream costs to the environment are huge: petroleum must continue to be produced, ores must be mined, trees must be cut, energy and water must be used to produce these waste-products. We need to think upstream.

I urge you to take the step to reduce this harmful and wasteful packaging. Please pass SB 545. Thank you.