



Date: 4/10/2023

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Emerson Levy and Bobby Levy, and Members Andersen, Helm, Kropf, Osborne, Owens, Pham, and Wallan,

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project is writing in support of SB 543.

SB 543 offers a simple and practical way to reduce the use of plastic. Plastic pollution is a problem across the state, ending up in the ocean, lakes, and rivers and ingested by humans through food and water. Throughout its lifecycle, plastic is also very bad for the climate. Most plastics are made from fossil fuels, and plastic refining is one of the most greenhouse gas intensive manufacturing sectors. Once used, plastic is notoriously difficult to recycle. Most of it ends up in landfills or is incinerated, which results in very high emissions.

Polystyrene is particularly bad for the environment. It takes so long to decompose that it is essentially non-biodegradable, and it fills up to 30% of landfills globally. It leaches harmful chemicals into food, drinks, and the environment. Polystyrene can break into small pieces and be ingested by animals, and the fact that it can float means that it can easily spread along our waterways.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS) are also very bad both for human health and for climate change. PFAS are linked to health problems like cancer, kidney and liver disease, reduced immunity, and others. Manufacturing of PFAS releases greenhouse gas HCFC-22, which is approximately 5000 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Please protect the environment and health of Oregonians by supporting SB 543.

Thank you,

Amanda Duncan  
Legislative Committee  
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter

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### About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions.

For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org) or on Twitter at @ClimateReality.