

Submitter: Mahela Schiffer
On Behalf Of: Cascades Academy Eco Club
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB551

My name is Mahela Sciffer, and I am a student of Cascades Academy of Bend, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 551, which seeks to expand the plastic bag ban and introduce new regulations for food trucks to reduce plastic waste.

As a concerned citizen and advocate for environmental sustainability, I believe that expanding the plastic bag ban to include more types of plastic products is a crucial step in reducing our environmental footprint. The current ban on single-use plastic bags has already shown positive impacts, and extending this ban to include reusable plastic checkout bags, single-use plastic utensils, and single-use condiment packaging will further reduce plastic pollution in our communities.

In addition, requiring food truck operators to ask customers before including utensils in their to-go boxes is a simple yet effective measure to minimize unnecessary plastic waste. Many customers do not need or want these utensils, and by asking first, we can significantly reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills and our natural environment.

I have personally witnessed the detrimental effects of plastic pollution in our local parks and waterways. It is disheartening to see the impact on wildlife and the natural beauty of our state. By supporting SB 551, we can take meaningful action to protect our environment for future generations.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 551 and help Oregon continue to lead the way in environmental stewardship. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mahela Schiffer