

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of SB 551

February 10, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Smith, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am writing today in support of SB 551, a crucial step toward reducing plastic waste and protecting Oregon's environment.

Plastic pollution is a growing crisis, filling our waterways, harming wildlife, and contributing to long-term environmental degradation. Every year, countless single-use plastic items—checkout bags, utensils, condiment packets, and small toiletry bottles—end up in landfills or, worse, in our natural spaces. SB 551 takes a measured, practical approach to addressing this problem by focusing on unnecessary plastic waste in retail, food service, and lodging industries.

This bill is not an outright ban on all plastic products but instead shifts the burden by requiring consumers to request these items when needed, rather than receiving them automatically. This simple change has been proven effective in reducing plastic consumption without disrupting business operations or customer convenience. Similarly, requiring hotels to provide small plastic toiletry containers only upon request encourages a transition to bulk dispensers—an approach already successfully implemented by major hospitality chains.

Oregon has long been a leader in environmental policy, and SB 551 aligns with our state's commitment to sustainability. By reducing reliance on single-use plastics, we take a significant step toward cleaner communities, healthier ecosystems, and a more responsible economy.

I urge this committee to support SB 551 and move Oregon forward in the fight against plastic waste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, and Wilsonville