

Submitter: Denice Searcy  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB551

NO on SB 551

I personally have some heavy duty multiple use plastic bags that I have been using since 2020. I also have many cloth bags that I re-use and wash occasionally. This Act puts restrictions on some plastic products. It prohibits restaurants and retailers from providing reusable plastic checkout bags to consumers, which is not practical and ridiculous. It also prohibits food and beverage providers and convenience stores from providing single-use plastic utensils or single-use condiment packaging to consumers unless requested, which is even more nonsensical. Additionally this bill prohibits lodging establishments from providing small plastic personal health or beauty product containers unless requested. Really??

The state's responsibility of governing is not micromanaging and creating disunity in the state.

Micromanaging the use of single-use plastic bags to a single use is not a reduction of garbage. We all look for ways to reuse bags. Some even give theirs to non-profit stores, so is it going to force non-profits and food banks to charge for bags? The testimony of the Association of Oregon Recyclers is nonsensical that banning reuse would reduce garbage. It will do the opposite if for every use a new bag is required.

Oregon should keep up with current changes. Manufacturers are shifting to eco-friendly alternatives such as bioplastics made from renewable resources such as cornstarch or sugarcane. These bioplastics can have a lower carbon footprint and exhibit advantageous materials properties compared to fossil-based plastics. This aims to reduce the amount of raw material going to landfill and minimize the environmental impact of plastic waste.

It's been proven that plastics biodegrade faster than cardboard, so is this a hit on use of fossil fuels, which environmentalists clearly hate? This inconvenience won't do that and the cardboard replacement may make things worse with the false impression that it's biodegradable.

1 paper bag takes more energy to make than plastic bag. Reusable bags take 131 uses to have the same carbon footprint as a plastic bag.

What is the purpose or reason for a state law that says the county or city MAY

enforce it.

Please vote NO on SB 551. Thank you.