

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

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba, Levy, and members of the Committee, my name is Ciaran Moses and I am a Junior at University of Oregon, studying Political Science. I am the Grasstops coordinator of the Better Bag Ban campaign, run by OSPIRG Students.

I am from Eugene and have lived in the state of Oregon my whole life. I have always been around nature and greenery, it's a privilege I have never taken for granted and I have cultivated an amazing connection to my natural surroundings. When I was growing up and still today, I have been constantly reminded of climate change and the threat it poses to our environment and society. As I continued on into college at the University of Oregon I decided to study Political Science and it has both helped me understand the immense danger of climate change and frustrated me with our inability to act on the issue.

Motivated by my connection to the environment here in Oregon and locally in Eugene, I decided to join OSPIRG over the summer and canvas locally for the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act, a piece of legislation aimed at putting in common sense regulation to curtail microplastic pollution. What I found in canvassing and interacting with our community here in Eugene was that so many folks feel the same connection to our environment that I do, and that they were willing to make sacrifices in order to protect it, with many pledging to give ongoing financial support to help our campaigns.

Now, as the Grasstops coordinator for the Better Bag Ban campaign, I've been fortunate enough to get the chance to speak with many different leaders in our community, from student leadership and small business ownership, to Eugene's city councilors, the Mayor, and state elected officials. In these conversations, I have once again seen the same sentiment throughout. We know as a community that we must protect our green spaces, and this is apparent at every level.

My experiences with canvassing to fight plastic pollution and working on the Better Bag Ban have illustrated to me just how many people in our community share my motivation to protect our green spaces here in Oregon, and how far they were willing to go to prove it. This is why passing SB 551 is so important, not only because it will prevent plastic bags from continuing to harm our environment, but because it will show our communities that Oregon is fighting for them and in their interest.

Overall, Senate Bill 551 is another piece of common sense legislation which would immediately improve our ability to combat climate change and protect our precious environment. It would be a decision supported by our community members and our leadership. This is why I urge you all to support SB 551, and help Oregon remain a leader in the fight against plastic pollution.