

Submitter: Kelsie Evans

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

I strongly oppose this proposal for several reasons. First, this proposal will directly require businesses to use more packaging per unit which is environmentally detrimental. Plastic packaging is often discarded as litter and impacts the cleanliness of our cities and neighborhoods. As additional plastic waste enters our natural areas it impacts wildlife, ends up in our waterways from the smallest stream to our rivers and ultimately into our oceans, and breaks down into micro plastics which have the potential to cause long term health issues. If this measure is ostensibly to promote the health and safety of our youngest citizens, then we need to also seriously consider the long-term health consequences of single use plastics as they contribute global climate change and environmental degradation.

This measure will also cause economic harm to local businesses as they will have to absorb the additional costs of materials to comply with individual use packing rules. In a time where Oregon businesses are already struggling to stay afloat, we will most certainly see small businesses across the state close under the insurmountable economic strain this will cause. Oregonians across the state are feeling the burden of job losses and economic uncertainty, and creating a situation where more people are left without the jobs and careers these businesses offer is a mistake that we cannot afford to make.

Finally, this measure foists more economic burden on everyday Oregonians and is a regressive way to attempt to generate additional tax revenue since it will increase the total number of units individual consumers will have to purchase to acquire the same amount of product. The prices of consumer goods have skyrocketed in the post COVID era, and everyday people bare the brunt of these costs. There are community members who rely on Oregon's legal cannabis industry for pain management who will be priced out of the market. For local businesses to thrive, they need customers, and if we implement this rule there will be less people who can afford to patronize and support them and again our economy will suffer.