



House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, HR D
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2509

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The City of Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of about 30 high school students from across Hillsboro who organize and participate in community events, and provide youth perspective to the Hillsboro City Government and City Council. We are built around three pillars: supporting education, promoting equity, and protecting the environment.

Early last year we started work on our first-ever policy initiative, an effort to promote the use of reusable shopping bags and phase out single-use plastic bags in Hillsboro checkout aisles. Every year, the average American family takes home nearly 1,500 single-use plastic bags, each one used for an average of 12 minutes. And when these bags have served their purpose, they are discarded. Plastic can last for thousands of years in landfills -- and if it finds its way into rivers or oceans, it can harm species we depend on. YAC took on the challenge of reducing this waste through what we called our Sustainable Shopping Initiative.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2018, we did research, conducted extensive outreach, collected community feedback both in-person and online, and consulted with stakeholders in the business community. We worked closely with members of city government to craft an ordinance and eventually presented the final ordinance to the Hillsboro City Council, where it passed unanimously last November. We are proud to say that our Sustainable Shopping Initiative had the support of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, the Northwest Grocers Association, our State Representatives, local recycling and waste-management businesses, and numerous environmental organizations. Through our initiative, Hillsboro joined a growing list of more than a dozen other Oregon cities that have passed legislation meant to reduce our reliance on single-use plastic checkout bags.

We are now excited and proud to support the passage of this statewide policy. We believe that reducing plastic pollution is key to ensuring that today's youth inherit a clean, healthy environment tomorrow, and we want Oregon to be a leader in promoting sustainable shopping practices.

Sincerely,

Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council

Nisala Kalupahana, Glencoe High School
Ryan Smith, Glencoe High School
Julia Notz, Century High School
Moaz Elbarbry, Liberty High School
Vrushank Gunjur, Liberty High School
Ellie Villaraldo, Glencoe High School
Andrew Graves, Glencoe High School

Eduardo Corona, Liberty High School
Amber Piete, PCC Early College
Shawna Ashley Ingram, Hillsboro High School
Yasmeen Koborsi, Liberty High School
Eli Melendez, Hillsboro High School
Kelly Xu, Liberty High School
Elizabeth Maloney, Liberty High School

Olivia Vargas, Century High School
Hope Stansell, Glencoe High School
Makena Krause, Glencoe High School
Rithika Pai, Glencoe High School
Erin Morrison, Liberty High School
Trent Robinson, Glencoe High School
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Ludmila Isakharov, Glencoe High School
Kya Dillon, Liberty High School
Hanna Kane, Glencoe High School
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Tasha Robinson, Glencoe High School
Lauren Nguyen, Glencoe High School
Zane Othman-Gomez, Liberty High School