



Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Amending HB 2509-5:

Proposed Legislation Ends Usage of Single-Use Retail Plastic Checkout Bags and Creates Uniform Standards Statewide

Scheduled for work session on April 2, 2019, before the
House Committee on Energy and Environment

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Schouten, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of an amended version of HB 2509-5. While Wilsonville like most cities prefers to maintain local decision-making authority, discontinuing the usage of single-use retail plastic checkout bags appears to make more sense on a statewide basis, rather than on a community-by-community basis.

The City understands that the business community by and large would prefer a uniform, standard set of rules that apply throughout the state. A consistent, standard method of conducting business is preferable for business operations with multiple retail locations than conforming to a hodge-podge of various rules across the state.

Consumers too will benefit by having a consistent, standard process when shopping anywhere in Oregon. The environment and solid-waste and recycling processes will also benefit from a reduction in the generation and disposal of single-use plastic checkout bags.

The City supports League of Oregon Cities' proposed HB 2509-5 amendments to Sections 3 and 4 to grandfather existing local ordinances and establish a statewide minimum instead of a statewide ceiling. Therefore, the City opposes the preemptions of local government authority found in Section 3 of the -5 and -9 amendments.

Additionally, I encourage the Committee to consider amending all versions of HB 2509 to use the definition of "reusable" adopted by the Lake Oswego City Council, Ordinance No. 2806 (2019), which aims to truly eliminate plastic checkout bags:

"Reusable Bag. A bag made of machine washable cloth, woven synthetic fiber, or woven and non-woven polypropylene with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for long-term multiple reuses."

The Lake Oswego ordinance does not allow any plastic bag of any thickness to be defined as "reusable"; nor are "compostable" or "biodegradable" bags to be provided or sold by retailers as checkout bags. The ordinance actually seeks to reduce the number of plastic and bioplastic bags that end-up clogging the recycling stream or are destined for the landfill.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on an amended version of HB 2509-5 as noted above. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville