



April 4, 2019

House Committee on Energy and Environment

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Craft Brew Alliance and Widmer Brothers Brewing to support HB 2509, the “Sustainable Shopping Initiative.” Plastic checkout bags are a public nuisance and not only do they harm wildlife, but also cause contamination at recycling and composting facilities and are costly to clean up.

CBA and Widmer Brothers has worked closely with the Surfrider Portland Chapter, a strong proponent of this work. We piloted the #DitchtheStraw campaign and testified alongside Portland City Council in support of legislation, that passed, to require disposable plasticware to be offered by request only at Portland establishments.

Alongside Surfrider, we support the 10 cent pass-through charge for paper bags and thick, reusable plastic bags. The 10 cent charge is a proven effective method to incentivize reusable bag use and decrease the use of paper bags. In Portland, one of the few cities in Oregon that does not charge a fee, paper bag usage increased by 491% in the first year of implementation.

Sixteen local communities in Oregon have already passed plastic bag ordinances (and many more are in the process of doing so) to limit plastic pollution, and the local and public support for a statewide bill is overwhelming. The private sector is also taking initiative to reduce plastic bag pollution. Kroger, the 2nd largest grocery retailer in the US after Walmart, announced they are phasing out plastic carry-home bags by 2025. Many other states including Washington and New Jersey are considering statewide plastic bag policies and Oregon should be a leader in the fight to protect the environment.

Protecting Oregon’s environment is essential to the future of the brewing industry, where we rely on fresh, clean water and regionally-grown hops. Please pass the Sustainable Shopping Initiative Bill.

Thank you,

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