

## Ban the bag

Salem City Council 9-8-2018

I regret that I am unable to attend - unable meaning I am physically disabled. That means I am not able to handle bags without handles. I live alone and pride myself to remain independent and not be a draw on social benefits. However, government, local and state, is making it very difficult to maintain my dignity by passing laws that have consequences for me.

The real issue is that the reasoning for banning plastic is faulty. Research shows paper bags are more hazardous to the environment in the long run. Producing them creates more greenhouse gases and destroys trees. Also creates more water pollution. Unless exposed to the right conditions of air and sun, paper bags biodegrade at almost the same rate as the plastic bags. And paper emits more toxic fumes when decomposing than plastic. It takes more energy to recycle paper than plastic, and paper bags take up more space in the landfills.

Some people are encouraging biodegradable plastic bags, but there is also research out there that shows that these plastic bags emit more toxic gases than regular plastic bags. Of course, reusable fabric bags would be one viable solution but they are also a breeding ground for bad molds and bacteria. Honestly, how many people take the time to wash their fabric bags every time they use them? Mold is a growing allergy and fabric bags in busy families with children has the potential to increase school absentee rates.

If the reason is loose plastic in waters and landscape, what research has been done for Salem and the source of that plastic. You can't use general Oregon to justify a local ordinance. Will this ordinance really help anything? How many animals are seriously injured or killed by plastic bags near Salem? I don't think you can name one.

Then there is the mandated charge that amounts to a tax considering it is mandated. Why mandate a charge and let the market place figure it out. You should only mandate a maximum charge allowable. What is the purpose of a mandated minimum charge when the city doesn't see any of it. This appears to be illegally metaling in the marketing place functions.

Then you give an exception that is judgmental and unenforceable if violated.

Identifying plastic bags as "Single-use" is rarely true. It would be more appropriate for paper bags as they are often destroyed with a single use where there are many reuses for plastic bags keeping them from landfills until several uses. Paper bags go directly to the landfill meaning more garbage collected making this discussion economically a disaster.

If the reason for this ban is based on "environmental" issues, then I seriously question how much research has gone in to this argument. Passing an ordinance that seriously affects our economy without scientific proof is irresponsible and lacks due diligence. It is an overreach of government without due cause.

Donna Bleiler

Margot Rodgers 9:23pm Aug 9

If you look at the research, paper bags are more hazardous to the environment in the long run. Producing them creates more greenhouse gases and destroys trees. Also creates more water pollution. Unless exposed to the right conditions of air and sun, paper bags biodegrade at almost the same rate as the plastic bags. And paper emits more toxic fumes when decomposing than plastic. It takes more energy to recycle paper than plastic, and paper bags take up more space in the landfills. Some people are encouraging biodegradable plastic bags, but there is

also research out there that shows that these plastic bags emit more toxic gases than regular plastic bags. Of course, reusable fabric bags would be one viable solution but they are also a breeding ground for bad molds and bacteria. Honestly, how many people take the time to wash their fabric bags every time they use them? Except for the water animals who have more potential for being harmed (and what percentage of Oregon towns are coastal towns, or directly near a lake/river?), how many animals are seriously injured or killed by plastic BAGS? If the reason for this ban is based on "environmental" issues, then I seriously question how much research has gone in to this argument.