

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members.

I am a law professor living in Seaside Oregon. The proposed single use plastic bag ban is both well written and important.

These single use plastic bags are endangering our wildlife. The wind can catch one of these bags and fly like a kite until the bag drops into Pacific Ocean. These bags look like food in the ocean. Wildlife eat these bags, causing harm and even death to these unwitting creatures. This is wrong and something you can fix.

The true goal to this bill is to put a system in place that encourages the public to use heavy duty reusable shopping bags. Charging 10 cents a bag for a paper bag is a necessary part of this system. By charging even this small fee consumers will be incentivized to bring a re-usable bag when they shop. But in the event that the shopper forgets their bag, they can still have a paper bag to put their purchases. This is far less harmful to the environment than the single use plastic bag that the 10 cent paper bag replaces.

The 10 cents may help the retailer, but that is not why this aspect of the bill is necessary. The consumers need to pay a dime for a few trips so they can remember to bring the reusable bags from home. After a short while this system will have trained the public to bring reusable shopping bags to the store.

Thank you for your work on this important bill.

I urge you to pass this out of committee

Sincerely,

Russ Mead

Seaside Oregon