





Vote Yes on H.B. 2509 and ditch the single use plastic bag!

We are a group of concerned Oregon residents who want to protect Oregon's coastal and other water and land resources and wildlife.

Plastic waste is a huge problem across the world. Globally we are experiencing a plastic pollution crisis, and the mass production and consumption of single-use, throw-away plastic is to blame. Plastic product producers are pumping out billions of throwaway products every year. The plastic produced from 2000-2010 exceeded the amount produced during the entire last century.

Recycling schemes are failing to keep up, and we are seeing products labeled as 'biodegradable' which, sadly, are often just greenwash. Plastic bags can't biodegrade; they last virtually forever (500+ years or more). Instead, plastic bags break down into smaller pieces called micro-plastics that leach toxicants that pollute our land and water systems, contaminating wildlife, including marine life, as well as ecosystems. Many animals confuse plastics for food or nest-building materials, while

others get entangled and trapped in the plastic mess. Recent studies estimate that fish off the West Coast ingest over 12,000 tons of plastic each year. There are further concerns about how humans will be affected by drinking contaminated water, or eating fish such as crab, that have been consuming micro-plastics.

We can begin to address this problem by banning use of single use plastic bags. Because they are light in weight, plastic bags easily blow out of trash cans and landfills. They clog waterways, damage farmland, and provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Also, plastic bags are manufactured using petroleum, a nonrenewable resource. It has been estimated that Americans use an average of 500 plastic bags per year, for a total of over 155 billion bags used in the U.S. alone every year. Almost all of these plastic bags end up in the trash. Local governments are stuck with the costs of disposal and clean up. Those disposal and clean up efforts have not made a dent in keeping plastic bags out of the environment.

At least twelve Oregon cities, including Manzanita, Ashland, Portland, Salem, and McMinnville, have banned single use plastic bags. A plastic bag ban in Bend, OR, will go into effect on July 1, 2019. The states of California and Hawaii have banned retail use of single use plastic bags, and many cities in Washington state, including Seattle, have banned these bags. A number of countries in Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa, as well as states and territories in Australia, have either banned single use plastic bags or charge a tax for using them.

It is time for Oregon to step up and protect its waterways, land resources, wildlife, and citizens. The undersigned groups representing hundreds of Oregon residents who urge your support of H.B. 2509.

Sincerely,

Indivisible North Coast Oregon

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