



414 E. First Street · P.O. Box 970 · Newberg, OR 97132

May 29, 2019

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair, House Rules Committee

Dear Chairman Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

The Newberg Mayor and City Council joins sixteen cities that have passed ordinances regulating plastic bags. It's time to take statewide action. Discontinuing single-use retail plastic checkout bags statewide makes the most sense, rather than community-by-community. A unified single-use plastic bag ban would be easier to implement and enforce especially for small businesses with multiple locations.

Our citizens will benefit by having a consistent, standard process when shopping anywhere in Oregon. We have heard from our waste hauler (Waste Management) that plastic bags are the number one source of mechanical failure in their sorting facilities. They are not recyclable in our traditional waste streams and removing the thousands of bags that make their way into these facilities' machinery is a serious worker hazard and represents a major business cost for shutdowns. Plastic bags that find their way onto streets and small streams often foul city infrastructure such as storm drains and catch basins, representing costly maintenance for our public works department.

The City of Newberg respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on HB 2509-A13.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

  
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Mayor Rick Rogers

Cc: Senator Thatcher  
Representative Post