

March 2, 2021
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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley, and members of the committee. My name is Carly and I live in the Kerns neighborhood in Portland. I support Senate Bills 14, 581, and 582-1 because it is time to reenvision our way of living without the dependency we have on plastic.

The fact here is that plastic is cheap and easy for companies to use, but the detriments caused on our environment and in the waste we produce are by no means worth the convenience.

Having worked in food service, I have seen how quickly and carelessly single use plastics are gone through in a single day. It is nearly impossible to fathom the amount of plastic waste produced by all the people, in all the restaurants across the city, and that is just a fraction of it. People will argue that this bill hurts the restaurant industry, but that would only be true if there were not an alternative to these products. With these plastics being of the top polluters of the planet, it is our duty as its inhabitants to seek and implement those alternatives.

Along with this, the transitioning attitudes toward recycling see it as a joke. The reality of how recycling works and the facade of how it is branded to the public as the "save all" to deter from the guilt of single use materials is breaking down, unlike plastic. There is absolutely no reason to not hold plastic manufacturers accountable for the products that they choose to produce.

If we don't push this forward now, then when? We are out of time for wishful thinking and it is time to put programs like these into place to begin the work to slow the damage to our environment that plastics cause. We need to start the work today to find genuinely greener alternatives and prioritize the wellbeing of the planet that we all live on, and these bills start that work.

The right decision is often the difficult one to make, and it is time to direct our motivations to begin improving the mess we've made.

Thank you for your time,
Carly Wilson