

Submitter: Irene Gilbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB544

I submitted testimony on SB 545, but believe that SB 543, SB544 and SB 545 will end up being one bill, so will reiterate my objection to requiring anyone to handle used food or other containers given the number of invisible hazards that may be present. I also object to this bill requiring the elimination of the use of most plastics in Oregon. It reminds me of the "elimination of one time use plastic grocery sacks. Noone seems to care that the "new improved" plastic sacks cause more pollution to produce than the old version, that very few people actually wash the things out and reuse them, that most end up in landfills, burned in fireplaces or fire pits, or appear as litter and anyone on state food benefits (an ever increasing percent of the people) don't have to pay for them. The only people actually buying the things are those who are trying to pay for groceries without state aid. Does anyone actually want to know how much pollution is really being saved by the heavy duty reusable grocery sacks??

On to SB 544. Again, who is going to have to handle the "reusable" containers? Have you ever used a paper plate that does not have a plastic film? Have you experienced the liquid seeping through the bottom and landing on your lap or on your car seat? Is it better to have people bring plates and cups from home? Do you think it is easier to clean up the mess when someone drops a glass cup they brought from home to purchase their pop and their child drops it and breaks it at the lake or at the beach? Do you really think everyone will even make an effort to remove the pieces or will they just become a safety hazard? How much will these three bills add to the cost of purchasing a meal at a restaurant? Going to a drive in for a hamburger and fries now costs \$10.00 per meal or more. How many restaurants are barely keeping their doors open now? The last time we purchased breakfast for two at a local restaurant it was \$29.00. An appetizer and a coke cost me \$18.00 this evening. It can be significantly more than that. No more eating out for breakfast, and no more stopping by for an appetizer and a coke just for the fun of it. The scales have tipped for our family. I am guessing there are others who are also at the breaking point. All the "little" impacts are killing businesses and taking away what many including my family have considered a relaxing little break from our normal routine. It is not a matter for me of being unable to afford eating out. It is a matter of deciding that the cost of the enjoyment of eating out has outpaced the enjoyment that it gives me. Seeing budget statements that say "NO GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL COSTS" would be funny if it weren't for the fact that it ignores the costs to the people who run the businesses and those who use them. I question that most politicians spend a lot of time considering costs of the bills that are approved. Costs matter a great deal to those subjected to them. Isn't it time that someone demanded that there be a true cost/ benefit analysis addressing short and long-term impacts before bills are inflicted on the citizens?