



Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 740
Gladstone, OR 97027

February 12, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Vice-Chair Senator Lynn Findley
Member Senator Jeff Golden
Member Senator Cedric Hayden
Member Senator Kate Lieber

RE: SUPPORT for Senate Bills 543 and 544

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited (OCTU) is a registered non-profit representing the 3400 Trout Unlimited members and volunteers in Oregon. We are known for our science-based approach to conservation and our habitat restoration successes. Our mission encompasses the conservation of cold, clean and abundant water as well as the recovery of salmon, trout and other aquatic wildlife.

OCTU supports Senate Bills 543 and 544 as important steps to curtail plastic pollution on and in the lands and waters of Oregon.

Plastic recycling is a failure. The hundreds of synthetic polymer formulas and thousands of additives makes sorting difficult and costly. It is equally difficult and costly to determine compatible polymer formulations for remanufacturing. Only 10% of plastics are successfully recycled once and less than 1% a second time. As a result, 79% end up in landfills or the environment.

OCTU supports Senate Bills 543 and 544 because the bills propose reasonable measures to ultimately reduce the inputs of plastics into Oregon's environment, where those materials otherwise persist in the food chain and aquatic organisms. As nearly 40% of plastic containers are single use, many used for food which cannot be recycled through curbside systems. These containers enter the waste stream where they slowly break down, in the process releasing chemicals of known and unknown toxicity or they are simply discarded. Globally synthetic polymer breakdown products are found in most waterways tested. Environment Oregon found plastic particles in all 30 streams surveyed in Oregon. Particles are found in marine environments from the deepest ocean trenches to the coastal waters of Oregon in oysters and rockfish.

The most effective and economical way to reduce plastic pollution is to decrease use and ultimately the manufacture of plastics that cannot be reused or recycled.

SB 543 would prohibit the use of polystyrene foam (e.g., Styrofoam) from foodware and the sale of polystyrene foam packing peanuts and polystyrene only coolers. The bill would also prohibit the use of toxic perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in foodware containers.

SB 544 would require producers to reduce the amount of single-use plastic packaging and foodware by 25% by 2030 and move to reusable and refillable packaging.

We strongly urge you to vote for Senate Bill 543 and Senate Bill 544.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Rogers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark W. Rogers
Chair Oregon Council TU