

Submitter: Shari Harris-Dunning
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB545

Hello esteemed members of the Oregon Senate,

I am providing written testimony in support of SB 545 which directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules to allow consumers to bring their own containers for refilling with food at food establishments. I, like many other Oregonians, bring my reusable containers/bags, when I shop for bulk items. As an Oregonian and as a consumer, I actually had no idea that what I was doing, or that the food establishing allowing this practice, was an illegal act.

We all know that in the hierarchy of waste management, that reduction and reuse are on the top of the pyramid. Bringing clean, reusable containers for bulk food items, for take-out food services (i.e., food carts) or for left-overs (i.e., "Can I NOT have a doggie bag for my leftover food?) is an absolute no-brainer. By passing this piece of legislation, it allows Oregonians to be part of the waste reduction solution. This bill promotes a culture of reuse, which is a far better solution than recycling and disposal.

By both allowing the consumer to bring their own reusable containers and by allowing the food service industry to promote this practice, I believe that from an economic perspective this will benefit both the consumer and the food service industry. The consumer will have less solid waste to dispose of, saving money on garbage/recycling service fees. Likewise, the less single-use plastic that the food service industry has to purchase, the less they will have to both purchase and dispose of.

I thank you for bringing both ODA and OHA together to help solve the problem of both plastics production and plastic pollution.

Shari Harris-Dunning