

Submitter: Li Ya Mar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB545

I strongly support SB 545. No one should be forced to purchase or use single use containers and generate unnecessary waste. The production of single use containers and bags is energy intensive and polluting, the disposal of single use containers or bags strains local waste management capacity, and tends to pollute our waterways.

I've worked in hospitality as a food worker and the amount of containers used was horrifying and appalling. Food workers almost always wear gloves and protective layers, so the risk from handling a clean container returned by a customer is minimal. I always hated to disappoint customers when I had to tell them that we can't reuse the containers they brought back, despite them being cleaned thoroughly.

Multiple states such as Michigan and California have passed laws that allow restaurants to refill their own containers, and Neither I nor anyone I knew experienced health or safety issues with container reuse either on the employee or customer side.

Oregon needs to follow. Please pass SB 545 to decrease plastic waste and pollution, and allow individuals to re-use their own property. Thank you.