



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

February 14, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland strongly supports SB 545 which proposes rules to create more opportunity for customers to refill containers at a food establishment. Prior to state adoption of single-use plastic policies, the City of Portland banned or restricted single-use plastics targeting foam to-go containers (1992), single-use plastic bags (2008), straws, and utensils (2017).

Portland is home to organizations like Bold Reuse, a business that provides a reuse option at grocery stores and food carts; Realm Refillery, a waste-free grocery store; and Waste-Free Advocates, a nonprofit organization that advocates for reuse. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability also promotes reuse through an outreach program called [Resourceful PDX](#).

This bill would create the opportunity for the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Health Authority to create rules to remove barriers to reusing food containers while protecting public safety. It also aligns with the values and goals in our statewide Vision for Materials Management.

We urge your support for SB 545 to provide all Oregonians with the option of reusing food containers and remove barriers for businesses that provide meals and services with a waste-free approach.

Thank you,

Eben Polk
Solid Waste & Recycling Manager, City of Portland, BPS



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | www.portland.gov/bps
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