

SUPPORT for SB 544

February 15th, 2023

Written Testimony in support of SB 544 Reducing Plastic at the Source

As a 19 year old, I struggle to figure out how I can avoid climate disaster and foster a sustainable relationship between humans and the Earth. Because I'm inheriting the Earth and because of America's rampant individualism, I feel personally responsible for the future of the environment. Like a lot of people, my options are often limited to "deciding" to not partake in harmful things, such as single-use plastics. However, I don't exactly call this a decision, because although I have the choice between, say, buying eggs packaged in a cardboard carton or a plastic carton, the plastic carton in front of me still exists. It doesn't matter if I buy it or not because someone else might. It doesn't matter if nobody buys it at all, because it will still end up in the trash either way. It has still been produced and will still exist longer than our need for it. Sure, being intentional about where your dollar goes can sway companies away from producing plastic, but reduction is not guaranteed and the situation is too dire to depend on such indirect means. For so long, most of the pressure to reduce waste has weighed on individuals deciding what to buy. By supporting SB 544, you are holding companies responsible for producing plastics and making a truly impactful decision in preservation of our environment.

Matthew Schrader-Patton

The Environmental Center Winter Intern

