

Submitter: Tela Naftalin
On Behalf Of: Cascades Academy Eco Club
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB551

To: The Honorable Members of the Committee

Subject: Expanding the Plastic Bag Ban and Prohibiting Single-Use Utensils and Condiment Packaging

Dear Committee Members,

I am a middle school student at Cascades Academy in Bend and I am writing to express my strong support for SB 551, a crucial step towards mitigating the environmental impact of single-use plastics in our community. As an advocate for sustainable practices and a concerned citizen, I believe the expansion of the plastic bag ban to include single-use utensils and condiment packaging is a necessary move to protect our environment and public health.

Single-use plastics have become a pervasive issue, contributing significantly to pollution in our oceans, waterways, and natural landscapes. These items, often used for mere minutes, can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, causing harm to wildlife and ecosystems. Furthermore, the production and disposal of single-use plastics contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbate climate change.

By prohibiting the distribution of single-use utensils and condiment packaging, SB551 will encourage businesses and consumers to adopt more sustainable alternatives.

Reusable and compostable options not only reduce waste but also foster a culture of environmental responsibility and stewardship.

The success of existing plastic bag bans in reducing plastic waste has demonstrated the effectiveness of such measures. Expanding these efforts to include other single-use items will further amplify the positive impact.

In conclusion, passing SB551 is a critical step towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. I urge the committee to support this bill and continue to prioritize initiatives that protect our environment for current and future generations.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely, Tela Naftalin