

SB 551 In this testimony, I'm using information found on EPA.gov in an article titled "Impacts of Plastic Pollution". It states the harm it does to both the marine environment, and terrestrial environment, and goes into how it adversely affects humans as well.

To quote from the report: "The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated that in 2019, plastic products were responsible for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions throughout their life cycles, with 90% of these emissions coming from the production and conversion of fossil fuels into **new plastic products**" (emphasis added).

This bill hopes to stop one pathway of **new plastic products**. These 'reusable' plastic bags will take more fossil fuels, making the problem worse. How many people will actually reuse them, knowing that the store will hand them out?

Another quote from the report: "OECD also reports that, **unless human behavior changes**, greenhouse gas emissions associated with the life cycle of plastic products are expected to double by 2060. The World Economic Forum projects that **without intervention**, the global plastics industry will account for 20% of total oil consumption and up to 15% of global carbon emissions by 2050" (emphasis added).

Our government supporting new plastic bags being made available at our retail outlets sends a message that there is no problem with plastic... we need to learn that there most definitely is.

The article also points out disturbing health concerns to our own population. It is building up in our organs, even in our placentas. And animal studies have shown endocrine disrupting effects. There are carcinogenic compounds in this material.

I implore you to please support this ban, an intervention, a step toward changing human behavior. Information made available to us to learn about the threats to our own health would be another step toward the needed changes in human behavior.

Thank you.

