

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB551

Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 551.

I find it increasingly disturbing that the majority of our legislators choose to concentrate on placing restrictions on struggling businesses and consumers in Oregon, especially over a plastic bag that is used to provide consumers to carry our leftovers in.

Restaurants rely on single-use bags to ensure food safety and sanitation, especially for takeout and delivery. Alternatives like paper bags often lack the durability of moisture resistance needed to safely transport hot or liquid items, increasing the risk of spills, contamination, and customer dissatisfaction.

The extra-strength plastic bags we are now being charged for by grocery stores solves absolutely nothing but increasing costs and reporting for grocery stores and increasing costs to consumers, while the bags are now heavier and more plastic than before. Is this where this is leading to also? Consumers and businesses in this state are begging you legislators to STOP the INSANITTY, especially when science DOES NOT back you up in this type of legislation!

I also thought the MAJORITY in control of legislation were for Equity and Inclusion? This bill does NOT represent equity & inclusion as this ban disproportionately affects:

1. Low-income individuals who may not have access to reusable bags or the means to purchase them.
2. Elderly and disabled consumers who may struggle to carry or clean reusable bags regularly.
3. Unhoused individuals who often rely on single-use bags for storing personal items and mobility.

Environmental policy should be inclusive — not punitive.

Multiple studies have shown that reusable bags must be used dozens or even hundreds of times to offset their environmental production footprint — and many are made from synthetic materials that are not recyclable. Without a plan for reusable bag waste, this policy could unintentionally shift the burden elsewhere.

A more effective, balanced solution would include:

- o Exemptions for restaurants and small retailers
- o Compostable or recycled plastic bag options
- o Incentives for voluntary reduction rather than strict prohibition

Helpful reading to learn more about the SCIENCE of what this type of legislation does can be found here:

<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/plasticbagban/con/>

I suggest legislators educate themselves on recycling and the impacts of these types of bills would have on ALL OREGONIANS, not just the so-called environmental groups providing testimony without proven science to back up their wild claims. STOP THE NONSENSE!

VOTE NO ON THIS BILL!