

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

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba, Levy, and Members of the Committee, my name is Prissila Moreno. I am a junior at the University of Oregon studying political science and legal studies. Beyond being a student, I am also an OSPIRG Students campaign coordinator and the Associated Students of the University of Oregon's President-Elect.

I am originally from Los Angeles, California- specifically from the San Fernando Valley, located in the middle of several superfund sites. Growing up, I recognized the disproportionate impact that environmental hazards have on low income and marginalized communities like mine. After living in Oregon for 3 years, I call this place my home and care deeply about our natural spaces here. I always tell people that coming to Oregon felt like seeing a tree for the first time.

When I moved to Eugene, I was most looking forward to training for my seventh marathon. As a first generation student, I never imagined myself in a place like Oregon, running along the Willamette river, being a duck, or living 800 miles away from home. Unfortunately, one of the first things I noticed during my training was plastic pollution along the river. I could not understand how there was not more being done to protect the beautiful spaces that I was experiencing. I thought of home, and I thought of how this could become like it: where health issues related to our poor environment was the norm.

Motivated to do something about this, I joined OSPIRG Students my freshman year when we were organizing for a statewide ban on polystyrene- one of the worst kinds of single use plastics. Since then, I have been involved in registering hundreds of students to vote, winning the right to repair, and continuing to work on moving Oregon beyond plastics.

This year I'm running our better bag ban campaign- and one of the things that has stuck out to me was seeing the broad support we have in our Eugene community. On campus over 1,500 students have signed onto the campaign. We have built support from small businesses across Eugene, met with 4 city council members and the mayor, 4 of our state representatives, and our student government passed a resolution in support of the bill.

Members of the committee, for the sake of the future I will inherit, I implore you to support SB551.