

Letter of Support for Beyond the Bag Ban Bill (SB 551)

A call to action for a more sustainable future

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Beyond the Bag Ban Bill (SB 551). As a concerned citizen and a volunteer with groups who clean the beaches in Oregon I am deeply committed to environmental sustainability. I believe this bill represents a crucial step forward in our collective efforts to reduce plastic pollution and its harmful impacts on our beaches and our planet.

Making straws, utensils and condiments only available by request means that not only will waste not be generated but it has the bonus of households not having plastics that they then either store in their home and never use, or they must dispose of them. Plastic bags are a pervasive problem, littering our landscapes, clogging waterways, and endangering wildlife. Despite efforts to promote recycling, most plastic bags still end up in landfills or as litter. SB 551 addresses this issue head-on by implementing necessary restrictions on the use of plastic bags, encouraging the adoption of paper bags and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. On the hotel front, not having toiletries in little plastic containers should not only decrease the plastics we create and use but should also be a positive for hotels who won't have to pay for all those bottles.

The passage of SB 551 will not only contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment but also inspire innovation in sustainable packaging solutions. By supporting this bill, we are taking an important step toward reducing our dependence on single-use plastics and promoting a greener future for generations to come.

I urge lawmakers to consider the far-reaching benefits of SB 551 and to prioritize the health and well-being of our environment and communities. Together, we can create lasting change and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Jill Marks

Newport, OR



Beverly Beach North and looking towards Otter Rock wrackline photos demonstrating our plastic tsunami. April 4, 2025