

Submitter: Kathy Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB551

While this bill allows customers to request small plastic personal health or beauty products and also allows for convenience stores to provide single-use plastic utensils or single-use plastic condiment packaging to consumers when requested the problem with this bill is that it DOES NOT ALLOW retailers or restaurants to provide plastic bags to customers. Customers use these bags to carry items and when we get home we reuse the bags in many ways. Some people use them to line trash cans, some people use to dispose of cat litter, others use them to hold products they are donating and then the stores that received the donated products reuse these bags for a third time when customers buy something. If a person wants to bring their own bag to these establishments it is their decision. These single use bags keep us from having to buy new bags for these uses.

If you want to focus on the environment why don't you get rid of Styrofoam packaging and cups. Styrofoam production is associated with significant environmental and health risks. The process of manufacturing Styrofoam releases over 57 chemical byproducts, many of which can cause serious health challenges. These byproducts are hazardous to workers and nearby communities, leading to increased risks of respiratory issues, neurological effects, and cancer. Additionally, Styrofoam production ranks as the fifth largest source of toxic waste in the United States. The chemicals used and released during production, such as styrene and benzene, are known to be harmful to human health. Styrene, in particular, is a lab animal carcinogen and possible human carcinogen and neurotoxin, and its residues can be found in 100% of human fat tissue samples.