



April 16, 2025

Re: COIN Testimony in Support of SB 551 A

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I am writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN - in strong support of SB 551 A to reduce single use plastic waste. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon and has its own Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team that collaborates with organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest on policies, in part, to conserve and protect our natural resources from pollution. It goes without saying it is a privilege to live in a state so rich in natural resources that we rely on for our economy, making a living, recreation, our way of life. It is not an overstatement to say our natural resources are being overrun by plastic pollution, particularly as it degrades into small contaminants, microplastics.

Microplastics have invaded and contaminated our air and our land, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. Microplastics seep into the soil, groundwater and rivers, lakes, oceans and have been found in the highest mountains. Marine animals and other wildlife become entangled and injured by plastic or mistake plastic for food and ingest it, dying as a result. Microplastics have been found not only in our air, drinking water, and food, but also in humans including in our bloodstreams and brains.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/plastic-pollution>;

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/the-human-brain-may-contain-as-much-as-a-spoons-worth-of-microplastics-new-research-suggests-180985995/>

We simply can't contain or recycle our way out of plastic pollution. We have too much plastic waste. For the sake of our public health and our natural resources, we must reduce the amount of plastic that can get into our water, land, and air.

Oregon has been a leader in trying to reduce plastic pollution; the 2019 law to limit single use plastic bags was a milestone. But it is time to do more to reduce the overwhelming amount of plastics going into our environment and now threatening our public health as well as our natural resources. SB 551 A reduces retailers' distribution of plastics that are frankly unnecessary and end up in the trash immediately after one use. It is a good compromise that will help reduce plastic trash. Please support SB 551 A.

Laura Allen on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN