

Opponent

March 10, 2023

RE: HB2446

Dear Chair Representative Will Carpenter and Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

I oppose HB2446 because it prevents municipalities from regulating single-use plastics, such as single-use plastic bags and goes against what most Kansans want. Single-use plastic production contributes to the climate crisis by increasing CO<sub>2</sub> production and exposes us to toxic chemicals as tons of plastic waste accumulate. I urge you to vote against HB2446.

As of 2020, the U.S. plastics industry is responsible for at least 232 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> gas emissions per year. This amount is equivalent to the average emissions from 116 average-sized (500-megawatt) coal-fired power plants. A Yale opinion poll found 68% of Kansans believe global warming is happening now and that we should regulate CO<sub>2</sub> production. 40% of all plastics produced are single-use plastics. These single-use items are easy to replace and not a burden on the public or businesses. For example, the average American uses 365 single-use plastic bags each year. People can bring their own cloth bags instead of using single-use plastic bags. This is an easy habit for people to maintain once they start. Cloth bags can be used over and over again. I have some that I've used for over 15 years and still use. Moreover, reusable bags save retailers the expense of providing single-use plastic bags. Preventing municipalities from decreasing CO<sub>2</sub> production goes against what the overwhelming majority of Kansans want and regulating single-use plastics is a great way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> production. A survey of Wichita residents found that two thirds support a ban or tax on plastic bags. Similarly, 80% of Americans are concerned about single-use plastics and support local policies to reduce single use plastics.

In addition to the high CO<sub>2</sub> burden caused by single-use plastics, the catalysts and additives used in plastic production are toxic such hexavalent chromium brought to light by Kansas's own Erin Brockovich, and PFAS both of which increase the risk of cancer. Other additives to plastics are endocrine disrupters, such as BPA, that alter our hormones (estrogen and testosterone) and reproductive systems. We are all exposed to more and more PFAS and endocrine disrupters through our exposure to plastics. Plastics break down over time into smaller and smaller particles. These tiny micro- and nano-plastic particles are in the air and the water and accumulate in our bodies. Reducing the amount of single-use plastics will reduce the amount of plastic, PFAS and endocrine disrupters we are exposed to and that end up in our bodies. Children and developing unborn children are especially vulnerable to these toxins. Please consider the health and well-being of Kansans and oppose HB2446.

Represent the citizens of Kansas and not the special interest groups that benefit from producing single-use plastics. Thank you for considering these reasons to oppose HB2446.

Sincerely,



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