

February 15, 2022

Chairperson Sen. Renee Erickson

Ranking Minority Member Sen. Tom Holland

and all members of the Senate Commerce Committee

- Sen. Brenda Dietrich
- Sen. John Doll
- Sen. Kristen O'Shea
- Sen. Virgil Peck
- Sen. Mark Steffen
- Sen. Caryn Tyson
- Sen. Mary Ware

My name is Teresa Wilke and I am registered to vote in Douglas County Kansas. I am writing in opposition of SB 493, a bill which would prohibit cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation or protection of merchandise, food or beverages.

This bill would override Home Rule, the idea granted by our Kansas state constitution that allocates some autonomy to a local government because they are in the best position to understand the needs of their residents.

Further, I for one can recall when I first saw a plastic bag or cup and up to that time, I had been doing very well with product that did not clog our lands and oceans and disintegrate to the point of micro plastic particles that are now found in every living animal – including humans – on our planet. These microplastic parts can cause cancers.

Rather than encourage merchants in the state of Kansas to create a larger trash problem and damage the peoples' health, do not allow this bill to be introduced.

If introduced, please amend the text to require that if plastic or other containers are offered to the public, a mechanism for recycling those plastic or other containers must be in place. Further, that a non-plastic container be offered for consumer use at the same point of sale.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Teresa Wilke

Teresa Wilke

3221 Yellowstone DR
Lawrence Kansas 66047