

Opponent

February 14, 2022

RE:SB493

Dear Chair Renee Erickson and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,

I oppose SB493 on three principles.

The first principle is based on the state constitution section often described as "HOME RULE". Article 12, Section 5(b) of the state constitution stipulates that "Cities are hereby empowered to determine their local affairs and government..." and Section 5(d) strengthens that by stating "Powers and authority granted cities pursuant to this section shall be liberally construed for the purpose of giving to cities the largest measure of self-government." Communities have the right to decide for themselves what is right for them without being dictated to by the state.

The second reason I oppose SB493 is the cost to municipalities. Plastic waste, much of which comes from the food and beverage industry, cost municipalities in landfill and community clean-up efforts. Plastic litter, especially plastic bags, become ensnared in equipment such as municipal waste equipment and costs municipalities in equipment repairs.

Third, most people are in favor of banning or putting a tax on plastic bags. 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.

Thank you for considering these reasons to oppose SB493.

Sincerely,



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