

Jess Tkacik
Portland
LD 1122

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Jess, and I am a resident of Portland and a concerned citizen advocating for the 5 cent fee on bags in retail shops. As a member of the community, I am deeply concerned about the environmental impact of plastic waste, and I believe that the 5 cent fee is a useful incentive for shoppers to bring a reusable bag or think twice about if they need a single use bag. Reducing dependence on single-use bags, especially plastic bags, is a crucial step towards a more sustainable future for our planet and our state.

Single-use plastic bags are a major source of pollution, both on land and in our waterways. They are a common sight littering our streets, parks, and beaches, and they pose a serious threat to wildlife, who often mistake them for food or become entangled in them.

Plastic bags take hundreds of years to decompose, and in the meantime, they continue to pollute our environment. They also contribute to the growing problem of plastic pollution in our oceans, where they can harm marine life and disrupt ecosystems.

I urge you to consider the positive impact that a plastic bag ban would have on our community and our environment. By reducing our reliance on single-use plastic bags, we can make a real difference in protecting our planet for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.