

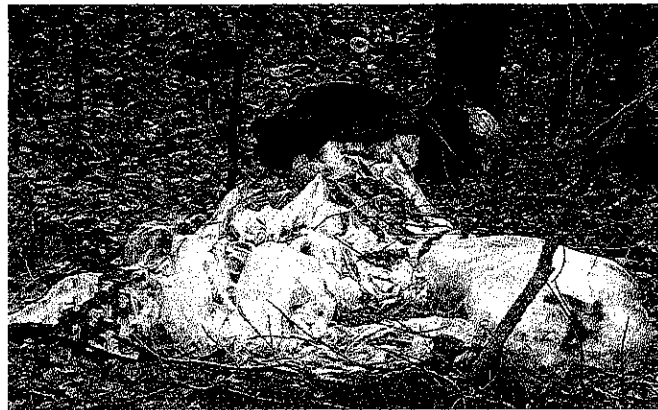
Opponent Testimony on HB 2625 – Bruce Blank

Dear House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Bruce B. Blank, and I am a resident at 2401 W. 14th St. N., Wichita, Sedgwick County in Kansas.

I am writing you in response on the part of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce's introduction of a proposed ban on allowing cities and municipalities in Kansas to decide for themselves to ban the use of single-use plastic bags.

As a volunteer with the city of Wichita's efforts to clean up trash along the Arkansas River, I can personally attest to the pollution generated by these single use bags, and how difficult they are to remove, let alone break down. Last year volunteers removed an estimated 140 50 gal. trash bags worth along just ONE MILE of the river.



I took these photos while on the last cleanup.

The statistics are quite readily available to underline the fact single-use plastic bags are recycled and reused less than 1%. These bags wind up everywhere and cause harm to wildlife, who wind up ingesting the plastic. These bags are an eyesore, diminishing the appeal of the public parks and waterways, lakes and streams.

It is unfair to the local populous to remove the ability for cities to decide for themselves what serves the best interest of its citizens. Furthermore, I think there is doubt on the legality of such a bill. The Kansas constitution, article 12, section 5, provides home rule for cities and says they are not dependent upon specific enabling acts of the legislature. It's probably unconstitutional for the state to try to ban cities from having a ban on bags.

Let's not have our state fly backwards towards common sense solutions to the landfill and trash issue. HB 2625 only serves the oil and gas lobbyists, ignoring hard data on the pollution and actual ecological costs of producing these single use bags.

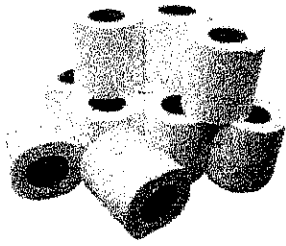
Thank you for your time and consideration on this manner.

Very truly yours,

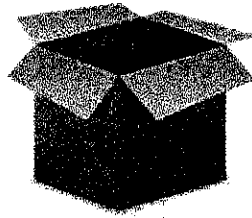
Bruce B. Blank

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316-993-4654



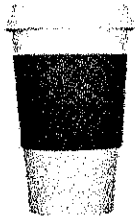
TOILET PAPER
2 to 4 WEEKS



CARDBOARD
2 MONTHS



PLASTIC BAGS
20 YEARS



COFFEE CUP
50 YEARS



EARTHBITS
HOW LONG DOES OUR
WASTE STAY ON EARTH?



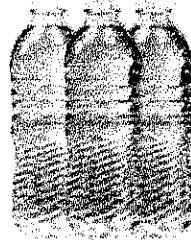
PLASTIC STRAW
200 YEARS



DISPOSABLE NAPPIES
500 YEARS



PLASTIC TOOTHBRUSH
500 YEARS



PLASTIC BOTTLE
500 YEARS



COFFEE PODS
500 YEARS