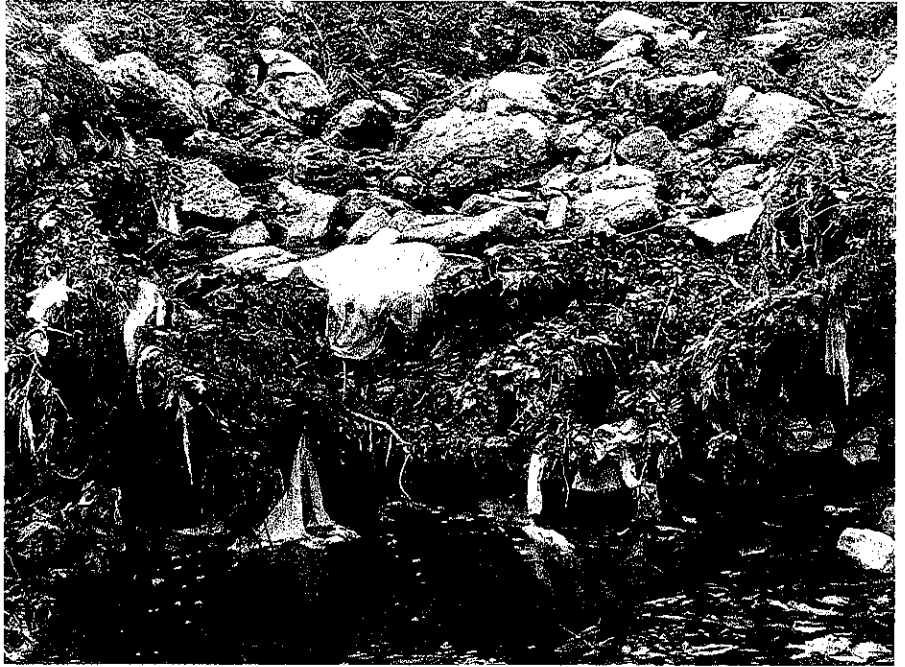


2/20/20

Dear House Commerce, Labor, and
Economic Development Committee:

My name is Lori Lawrence and I live in
Wichita, KS.



This is a picture of the 3rd Street Drain in Wichita at the end of my block. When I found this I realized I had to do something to clean it up. Daily cleaning is not going to be able to keep it clean. Plastic bags must be banned for this to be manageable.

Vote NO on HB 2625. Do not strip rights from cities. Each city and its businesses will decide whether a ban on single-use plastic bags is appropriate for their communities. Each city will make laws as they always have and local businesses will be a part of them.

Abolishing local control is not an answer to the plastic bag problem.

I serve on the Single-Use Plastic Bag Task Force for the City of Wichita. We are composed of both businesses and citizens. We have been trying for months to get this group finalized and ready to decide exactly what is best for our city so we can deal with the massive single-use plastic bag problem we have here.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce says that, "Several cities in Johnson County along with Lawrence and Wichita are considering either outright bans on plastic bags or taxing plastic bags with the proceeds going to the city. This patchwork effect of differing rules and tax levels would put a burden on businesses."

This is completely untrue. Each city is working with the business community to set up laws that benefit them and their clientele. This will be individual to each city's needs. Wichita does not need the same law as Coldwater. El Dorado does not need the same law as Ulysses. Each city is different and their laws must be also.

Single Use Plastic Bags are not free to businesses. No longer needing to purchase plastic bags at 1¢ each to give away for free will help Kansas businesses prosper. Many customers do already bring bags. Those who don't yet, will simply learn to. It's not that hard.

Standardizing bag bans is welcome. Please simply institute a Bag Ban across the state for every city. Then Walmart, Dillon's and others will have no problem dealing with the "patchwork" of laws. This will also make Kansas a leader in the US. Please vote NO on HB 2625 and move to simply ban all bags across the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Lori Lawrence - Wichita, KS,

lawrenceloid@gmail.com / 316-516-3632