

Testimony Against House Bill 2625

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The phrase “single-use” or “discarded after one use” appears in the text of House Bill 2625 at least ten times.

My question is, after this single use, where does the plastic go?

Unlike in previous decades, it is not going to China anymore, because in January, 2018, China restricted the imports of most plastics, so therefore according to *The New York Times*, plastics from dozens of American cities and towns are being dumped in landfills.

According to a December, 2018 article in *The National Geographic*, plastic takes more than 400 years to degrade, so most of it still exists in some form.

We know that a huge amount of plastic ends up in the oceans and suffocates or endangers marine life, because we have seen this picture of a seal with a plastic bag over its head or a turtle whose shell is contorted by six-pack plastic. The same article states that the prediction is by mid-century, ton for ton, the oceans will contain more plastic waste than fish.

We know that our cities, parks, beaches and roadways are littered with plastic forks, bottles and bags because we see it every day.

So why has there been a rapid acceleration of plastic manufacturing, which has doubled every fifteen years? (*National Geographic*) Probably because somebody is making some money from it.

So why would the Kansas Chamber of Commerce introduce a bill that would prohibit cities and towns from reducing their consumption of plastic? Probably because somebody fears losing money if they can't profit from cheap plastics.

To those people I would ask, is there anything in this diverse and wondrous natural world that is more important to you than making money?

