



**Senate Commerce Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 493
Presented by J. Kent Eckles**

Thursday, February 17th, 2022

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Kent Eckles on behalf of the Kansas Chamber. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you in support of SB 493, which is a simple bill designed to enact statewide uniformity regarding the regulation of plastic containers.

SB 493 will provide Kansas businesses a clear and predictable regulatory environment across Kansas' 105 counties and 627 municipalities. When municipalities attempt to ban certain "auxiliary containers" as outlined in SB 493, it leads to a hodgepodge of regulations from one county to the next and only serves to hurt small businesses, consumers, and the supply chain.

Compared to plastic bags, alternatives are dramatically more expensive, with paper bags costing about \$.08 per bag and other alternative bags only going up from there. These severe price increases are common for most alternative products forced onto retailers by local bans, driving up costs for stores that will ultimately be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices.

We support the free market by allowing retailers and consumers to have a choice of not only where they shop but what containers they may use. There are several food service retailers in the state that choose to offer paper containers. Additionally, consumers are free to bring their own shopping bags with them.

Please note the attached map showing Kansas' neighboring states, which are among the 22 who have already adopted statewide uniformity regarding auxiliary containers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of SB 493. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

