

**Testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee  
Opposing SB 493  
Presented by Margaret Kramar**

**February 17, 2022**

Madam Chairwoman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 493, an effort by the Kansas Senate to prohibit cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers in violation of a municipality's constitutional home rule authority.

This committee must recognize that within our state, cities and counties vary in terms of population, culture, demographics, political persuasion, geography and main sources of revenue. One size does not fit all.

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 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.

But plastics end up costing municipalities. Containers impose costs on cities and counties associated with litter clean-up, landfill space and maintenance, cleaning clogged sewers, and recycling. Each city and county should be able to determine the best ways to address these costs consistent with the wishes of their citizens.

This is not the place for an overbearing, one-size-fits-all regulation by the state to prohibit cities from making their own decisions regarding plastic and other containers.