



**House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2446
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2446, a bill similar to Senate Bill 493 vetoed in 2022 by Governor Kelly.

HB 2446 is intended to provide Kansas businesses a clear and predictable regulatory framework by which to operate. Like last year's legislation, HB 2446 prohibits cities and counties from banning certain auxiliary containers as defined. We have seen a growing trend across the country by local governments to ban plastic products because of their perceived damage to the economy. In October 2022, Greenpeace issued a [report](#) stating "Plastic recycling is a dead-end street."

In that report, they say "Mechanical and chemical recycling of plastic waste has largely failed and will always fail because plastic waste is: (1) extremely difficult to collect, (2) virtually impossible to sort for recycling, (3) environmentally harmful to reprocess, (4) often made of and contaminated by toxic materials, and (5) not economical to recycle."

We trust consumers and businesses to allow the markets to decide which products and services are best. Technology and innovation win in the long run and policy decisions at the local level which create a patchwork of laws that can place one business at a competitive disadvantage to another simply based on geographical location. Attached to our testimony is a map of states that have taken proactive steps to adopt uniformity standards and you'll notice Kansas is in the minority of states to not yet adopt a uniform approach to plastic containers.

In closing, we urge this committee to support House Bill 2446, to protect Kansas businesses from overzealous governments who seek to restrict consumer behavior through ineffective and burdensome regulations. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2446, and I'd be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

