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March 11, 2023

Testimony regarding House Bill 2446

My name is Tom Arnhold. I live in Olathe, Kansas and I am opposed to Kansas House Bill 2446 for a number of reasons:

1. Good government is government at the lowest political level. The State of Kansas should not interfere in local government issues. Each city and county should be able to decide for itself if it wants to regulate plastics and glass waste products.
2. This bill is highly hypocritical. State representatives and senators frequently bemoan federal laws that they say “invade the states’ provinces.” They do not want the federal government to tell Kansas what it can and cannot do. Yet this bill is doing just that. The State of Kansas will tell local governments what they can and cannot do.
3. Not allowing cities and counties to regulate plastics and glass will economically hurt every citizen in Kansas. Our landfills are increasingly filled with plastic and glass waste. This cost the citizens of Kansas tax money to find ever-larger landfills. In addition, we Kansans pay for the plastic bags with increased prices every time we shop. Retailers pass the costs of disposable plastic bags onto shoppers. I grew up on a farm in Western Kansas, and I saw firsthand the harm that plastic bags can do to farm animals and farm equipment. Plastic bags and other waste get sucked into combines, hay balers and other equipment, damaging them. Cattle, and other domestic animals, consume plastic waste. Many of the animals must be treated by a veterinarian and, even if they do not, the plastic is passed on to humans who consume the meat from the animal.
4. This bill is being pushed by the lobbyists with pockets full of money and goes against the will of the majority of Kansans. For once, listen to the citizens of Kansas and not the corporations and lobbyists.

Tom Arnhold