

Opponent

January 27, 2023

RE:SB47

Dear Chair Senator Renee Erickson and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,

I oppose SB47 for several reasons. SB47 prevents municipalities from regulating single-use plastics, such as single-use plastic bags and goes against what most Kansas want. Single-use plastic production increases CO2 production and exposes us to toxic chemicals. I urge you to vote against SB47.

As of 2020, the U.S. plastics industry is responsible for at least 232 million tons of CO2 gas emissions per year. This amount is equivalent to the average emissions from 116 average-sized (500-megawatt) coal-fired power plants. A Yale opinion poll found 68% of Kansans believe global warming is happening now and that we should regulate CO2 production. 40% of all plastics produced are single-use plastics. These single-use items are often easy to replace and not a burden on the public. For example, the average American uses 365 single-use plastic bags each year. People can bring their own cloth bags instead of using single-use plastic bags. This is an easy habit for people to maintain once they start. Cloth bags can be used over and over again. I have some that I've used for over 15 years and still use. Preventing municipalities from decreasing CO2 production goes against what the overwhelming majority of Kansans want and regulating single-use plastics is a great way to do just that. A survey of Wichita residents found that two thirds support a ban or tax on plastic bags. Similarly, 80% of Americans are concerned about single-use plastics and support local policies to reduce single use plastics.

In addition to the high CO2 burden caused by single-use plastics, the catalysts and additives used in plastic production are toxic such hexavalent chromium brought to light by Kansas's own Erin Brockovich, and PFAS both of which increase the risk of cancer. Other additives to plastics are endocrine disrupters, such as BPA, that alter our hormones (estrogen and testosterone) and reproductive systems. We are all exposed to PFAS and endocrine disrupters through our exposure to plastics. Plastics break down over time into smaller and smaller particles. These tiny micro- and nano-plastic particles are in the air and the water and accumulate in our bodies. Reducing the amount of single-use plastics will reduce amount of plastic, PFAS and endocrine disrupters we are exposed to and that end up in our bodies. Children and developing unborn children are especially vulnerable to these toxins. Please consider the health and well-being of Kansans and oppose SB47.

Represent the citizens of Kansas and not the special interest groups that benefit from producing single-use plastics. Thank you for considering these reasons to oppose SB47.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. Muma, Ph.D.
(in Pharmacology and Toxicology)
1217 Inverness Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049