

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2024

Bill Number: HB2446

Oppose

Margaret Kramar (Concerned Citizen)  
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Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I oppose HB 2446, which would prevent the City of Lawrence in exercising its right under constitutional home rule to ban single-use plastic bags.

I have a radical proposal for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. Instead of worrying about a patchwork of regulations, why don't retailers and corporations decide to do the right thing from the start, across the board, by banning single-use plastic bags at the point of checkout in all their stores?

They should welcome passing the cost of the bags to the consumers.

But any argument that having consumers supply their own containers is prohibitive or detrimental to the poor is ridiculous. A container can be any bag, box, backpack, laundry basket, or even old plastic bags. Everybody has those. They then can be stored in the car. It takes a while to form the habit of bringing them into the store, but this minor inconvenience is nothing compared to trashing up the environment and harming our health.

At a recent hearing before the Lawrence City Commission, I heard a citizen say, "So what? Just send them all to the landfill." He was correct in assuming that only about 10% of plastics are eventually recycled, but I wanted to ask him, "Would you want to live across the street from a dump? Would you like your housing development to be built on a dump? If we keep churning out more and more waste, where do you think it will go?"

It is human nature to resist change, any change, no matter how trivial. But this one is not cataclysmic. Therefore, allow Kansas cities to ban single-use plastic bags.