

Date: 1/20/24

Bill Number: HH2446

Opponent

Jasmine Hyde (Self)

Less LLC (Business Owner)

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jasmine Hyde, and I am a small sustainable business owner and resident of Lawrence, Kansas. I am writing to urge you to vote against HB2446 that would prevent Lawrence from being able to implement a ban on single use plastic bags.

I was very pleased to see a bag ban happening in my city. We are drowning in plastic waste, and while a bag ban isn't a perfect solution, it is certainly an important step towards more sustainable practices. The whole premise of sustainability is continued progress, not perfection, and I was proud to see Lawrence making an effort to implement a small yet positive change.

Why not allow small powerful changes to happen at local levels? Why not let cities and counties try to be more sustainable in this State? Why not be doing more as a whole State for that matter to make sure that the entire State of Kansas is a thriving example of sustainable policies? If a bag ban is truly as prohibitive and inaccessible as some people are being made to believe that it is, then it will become apparent, and could then be reversed. However, after an adjustment period, I doubt that will happen. Not allowing cities and counties to even attempt to make improvements is a heinous disservice to the cities, counties, states, country, and especially the environment that we rely on. I also think you'll find with a little research you can reference numerous places across the United States and abroad that have already implemented some form of single use plastic bag bans and are functioning successfully. Examples include but are definitely not limited to Aldi Grocery Stores, the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington France, Austria, Germany, Italy, and my small business, Less. They don't miss plastic bags and neither will places in Kansas. They are a minor "convenience" that have quite a few more sustainable alternatives that are not as detrimental to the environment and our health.

I also write this as a concerned citizen who very often forgets my own reusable bags when I go to the store, so I do recognize and understand the annoyance and cost, albeit very minor ones, associated with this sustainable effort to make a positive change. However, I can very clearly see the bigger picture and know that the environmental and health benefits of refusing such a small convenience far outweigh those negligible costs and annoyances.

I encourage and urge you to do the same.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider.

Jasmine Hyde