

BILL TESTIMONY

Presenter: Teresa Wilke

HB 2446

Opponent

written and oral testimony

TO:

Chairperson Sen. Mike Thompson

Vice Chairperson Sen. Rick Kloos

Ranking Minority Member Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau

and all members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

Sen. Chase Blasi

Sen. Cindy Holscher

Sen. Jeff Longbine

Sen. Mike Petersen

Sen. Ronald Ryckman

Sen. Alicia Straub

DATE: 1-19-24

My name is Teresa Wilke and I am registered to vote in Douglas County Kansas. I am in opposition of HB 2446, a bill which would prohibit cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation or protection of merchandise, food or beverages.

This bill would override Home Rule, the idea granted by our Kansas State Constitution that allocates some autonomy to local governments because they are in the best position to understand the needs of their residents. This is illustrated by the fact that my city has done substantive work on developing an ordinance on plastic waste that would encourage consumer use of reusable bags. Clearly, the issue of waste has always been a duty of municipality. Given that state law does not address how that duty is executed by a municipality, HB 2446 illogically presumes municipalities should be controlled with respect to managing disposable waste.

Lawrence and many other cities in Kansas have an interest in the abatement of plastic waste and demonstrate the will to make that happen. Nationwide, entire states have passed laws restricting the use of single use plastics – ask any national retailer, in some states, the business has developed alternatives to the use of single use plastic bags.

According to reliable research, the petroleum industry's interest in single use plastics for consumer goods is to perpetuate a market for the use of petroleum-based products. Petroleum is a finite resource. Petroleum is poison to life. The toxins spread by the use of plastics create health problems including but not limited to infertility, obesity, diabetes, prostate or breast cancer, thyroid problems and increased risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke, among others.

Rather than allow merchants in the state of Kansas to continue to create a large plastic trash problem and damage the peoples' health, please do not allow this bill to be introduced. It is clear to me that

proponents have an interest in the profits from these products while the opponents, well, we are interested in the health and safety of our planet and ourselves.

If introduced, please amend the text to require that if plastic or other containers are offered to the public, a mechanism for recycling those plastic or other containers must be in place. Further, that a non-plastic container be offered for consumer use at the same point of sale.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Teresa Wilke

3221 Yellowstone DR
Lawrence Kansas 66047

785-760-4031

Teresawilke55@gmail.com