

SB 493  
Opposed

Dear Chairwoman Erickson and Members of the Committee on Commerce,



Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 493.

For the past two years, I have served on a City of Wichita Task Force to study the effects of single-use plastic bags on our city. Our findings were that the people of Wichita support restrictions on these single-use plastic bags. Our City would save money not needing to clean out their storm sewer and, believe it or not, their wastewater treatment. Yes, people flush plastic bags! The photo on the left is at our wastewater treatment plant.

We will bring this to our City Council to vote on what is best for our city and our city alone. Each city is deciding what will work for them or not work. Each city knows what needs it has and how to meet them. Most of the legislators in Topeka do not live here and do not know. How could they? How could most of you when you don't live where I live?

The City Council of Wichita knows how to dispose of their waste and spends thousands upon thousands of dollars a year doing so. With you taking away our ability to govern ourselves, our City Council will be unable to make decisions that are best for the people who live here and save the city money when dealing with single-use plastic bags.

Struggling small Kansas towns are dealing with their own waste in their own ways. Only the people there know what is best for themselves. Only their governing body knows what is best for their city. Do not take that Constitutional right away from our Cities and Towns. Home Rule allows each municipality to self-govern what they decide to do with their waste, you must not try to prohibit each town from doing what is best after studying the effects and the costs.

Limiting single-use plastic saves money as small business owners no longer have to provide "free" bags and cups and all else that drives up their overhead. This will be a cost saving measure for stores and businesses all over our state and benefits any city that decides to restrict single-use containers.

Limiting single-use plastic and specifically bags, is a good way to reduce the cost of our trash and our recycling. You may not know but a single plastic bag drives up the cost of our recycling when the bag gets accidentally caught up in the machinery by an unsuspecting citizen. The recycling machine must be taken apart, broken down, to find the bits and pieces of such bags. Then they have to be thoroughly cleaned and reassembled and then started back up. This can take much of the day and drives up the cost to all citizens when this happens.

I ask again, please respect the Kansas Constitution and local control, and **vote NO on SB 493**.

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