

Respectfully submitted to all members of the OH Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee

re: SB 222, Authorizing the use of auxiliary containers:

My name is Dolores Watson and I live in Cleveland's Eco-Village, contained inside the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood of Cleveland. I have been a long time advocate for the environment, including the wise use of all resources we possess.

I oppose the general BAN on BANS, as local bans are sometimes the only thoughtful way for a necessary changing of behavior to get started in a community.

Cuyahoga County has issued a BAN on the use of single use plastic bags, in an effort to cut down on one of the largest sources of plastic pollution in our immediate environment and our great resource, Lake Erie.

Please DO NOT BAN this very important ban.

Plastics pollution is one of the most serious problems facing us all in this century -- and we citizens of Cuyahoga County feel the BAN on single use plastic bags is one of the easiest ways to start educating the populace. Getting people out of their comfort zone -- routine of habit-- has the BENEFIT of creating a teachable moment.

In my neighborhood-- inside the Eco-Village mind you -- how often do I personally witness shoppers exiting stores where they have been given their purchases inside plastic bags, only to take their purchases out of the bags and either throw the unwanted bags directly on the ground-- or maybe try to put them inside a trash receptacle? How many times do I see the wind take this lightweight film plastic and whisk it away even if it was successfully placed in a trash container - down into the gutter to eventually end up in the lake -- or up into the air where it is destined to get stuck in trees or on other features in the environment? Nearly everyday, is unfortunately the answer to both these questions.

How long does this plastic pollution last? Some say forever, but in the meantime -- plastics do break down to become small particles eventually suspended in water that aquatic beings (fish, clams, etc.) see as FOOD. Eventually the ingestion of plastics kills the aquatic life, and is also passed up the food chain to human life as we are told by health authorities to eat more fish and seafood.

How much do you like to hear the constant rustling of plastic stuck in the tree branch next to your house or office? I have seen a bag in a tree in the alley near my home for going on two years now-- same bag-- same perch. If I could reach it I would remove it-- but it's too high up there-- rustling with every breeze and deteriorating into shreds that will eventually find their way to the lake.

The County BAN on single use plastic bags is a great starting point to help the population realize how much harm they cause when they recklessly dispose of the plastic items they don't want.

Again I ask you to reconsider the harm you will perpetuate should you uphold a general ban on bans.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dolores Watson
Resident of the Cleveland Eco-Village