

May 19, 2020

Re: HB 242

Dear Committee members,

I am writing today as a representative of Past Plastic Cincinnati. Our coalition includes: the League of Women Voters of Cincinnati Area, Sierra Club (Miami Group), Womens' City Club of Greater Cincinnati, Leaders for Environmental Awareness and Protection (LEAP), Communities United for Action (CUFA), Environmental Community Organization (ECO), Community Earth Alliance, Limestone Law & Policy Advocates, St. John's Universalist Unitarian Church Green Sanctuary, Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage, Imago Earth Center, First Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee, Vegan Earth, Church of Our Savoir Episcopal Church, Shomrei Olam, and the Mill Creek Alliance.

We are citizens of Ohio who are concerned about our environment and the harm caused by single-use plastic take-away containers. First and foremost, we are cognizant of the reality that these plastic items will not breakdown over time or ever "go away". Sadly, the inability of the public to effectively recycle these items results in a loss to our environment, especially our waterways and the world's oceans. It is a health threat not only to sea turtles and fish, but also to humanity.

We also suffer financially here in Ohio and elsewhere as the costs of storm water management, trash and recycling are greatly impacted by the nuisance plastic, which becomes debris after less than an average 12 minutes of use. As we see the health effects of plastic, which is consumed by people via the food chain, there is a mounting bill extracted silently as cancers and other health issues ensue.

Single use plastic bags and other single use plastic and styrofoam containers are something that just do not have a place in a healthy world.

The proposed HB 242, would take away the given rights of Home Rule from our communities in Ohio. That right is to be able to determine how we choose to manage our waste stream and how we are able to do our part to positively impact our environment and the greater good.

Thank you for your consideration in defeating this bill.

Sally Dannemiller