

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in opposition to HB 242. House Bill 242 & Senate Bill 222 aims to take away the constitutionally-granted authority of local governments, including municipalities, limited home rule townships, and charter government counties to establish local fees or taxes on “auxiliary containers,” including but not limited to carryout bags, bottles, cans, cups, takeout containers, straws, and a large swath of other items comprised of a range of materials used to consume or transport food.

The amount of plastics on our planet is absolutely ridiculous. Anyone who thinks making more or prohibiting towns and cities from addressing the enormous amounts of plastics in our environment is just frankly uneducated or bought off by the industry. No sane person could read the facts I have listed below and think we are doing fine with making millions of tons of single use plastics.

As a scientist I am amazed as to the lengths these companies and the oil and gas industry will go in efforts to promote single-use plastics and continue to pollute our world and our bodies. The science is obvious. Plastics DO NOT degrade. We are not successfully recycling them. They cannot be incinerated safely as this creates furans and dioxins, both classes of deadly compounds. China no longer will accept our wastes ... where will we put this waste, wastes that never really degrade? Ohio will eventually run out of landfill space.

The people of Ohio need to be able to tackle this problem as it will affect them and the future generations of the state. No amount of money can undo a cancer diagnosis or an endocrine disease caused by exposure to phthalates and plasticizers found in ALL plastics.

As a mother, grandmother, and scientist, I vehemently oppose this BILL HB 242!

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Some facts about Plastics

1. Plastic packaging accounts for half the plastic wastes in the world
2. America, Japan and the European Union are the world's largest producers of plastic per capita
3. By 2050 there will be 12 billion tons of plastic litter in landfills and the environment
4. By 2050, plastic may account for 20% of the world's total oil consumption

5. If tied together, the five trillion plastic bags used worldwide each year could be wrapped around the world seven times every hour!
6. More than half of all the plastic made was produced in the last 15 years
7. 99 percent of all the plastic made is derived from fossil fuels
8. In 1978, Coca Cola replaced glass with plastic
9. In 2018, 1.13 million items of packaging (mostly plastics) used for food and drinks in European Union alone
10. Plastics found in soils are 4 to 23 times higher than plastics in the sea
11. Making a polyester shirt may emit between 3.8 to 7.1 kg of Carbon dioxide
12. In 2018, China banned the import of plastic wastes
13. The four biggest exporters of plastics are: USA, Japan, Germany and UK
14. We have a ton of plastic for every person alive on the planet
15. Coca cola uses 88 billion single use bottles a year
16. Sachets, one single use of a single serving size are used extensively in poor countries (50% end up as wastes in a month)
17. USA uses 21% of single use packaging
18. Most common single use plastics are: Cig butts, drinking bottles, bottle caps, food wrappers, plastic grocery bags, plastic cup lids, straws, stirrers, foam take-out containers (ALL UNNECESSARY USES)
19. Of the 400 million tons of plastic made each year (158 million tons is for packaging) (62 for fabrics) (45 for consumer products) (71 for building and construction- this sector wouldn't be single use)
20. If you drink bottled water, you consume an average of 130,000 microplastics a year (Canadian study)
21. We eat on average the weight of one credit card a week of plastic (Australian study)
22. Food packaging industry market value in 2017 was \$277.9 billion
23. Women who handle plastics in the car industry are 5 X as likely to develop breast cancer
24. Plastic additives contribute to : obesity, diabetes, neurological diseases, premature onset of puberty, hypospadias
25. Bio-degradable plastic requires 12 weeks at 60 C to de-grade
26. Only 24 % of the 9.2 billion tons of plastics made since the 1950s are still in use
27. By 2021 Thailand and Malaysia will ban imported plastic scrap
28. Britain and USA are among the world's top plastic exporters and Malaysia is one of the top importers of wastes
29. Incinerators are expensive and when plastic is burned it creates dioxins and furans as well as carbon dioxide and other toxic emissions
30. Price paid for plastic wastes is much lower than what us paid for cardboard and metals
31. End of the waste stream solutions like recycling and incineration absolve the manufacturers of their responsibility. We need to make less plastics.
32. ORB found approximately 16 fibers in the tap water at the visitor's center in US Capital, home to both houses of Congress.
33. 95 % of the world's tap water now contains microplastics

34. 10 Rivers are carrying 90% of the plastic wastes to oceans. Two of them are in Africa - the Nile and the Niger - while the others are in Asia: the Indus, Ganges, Amur, Mekong, Pearl, Hai he, Yellow and Yangtze.
35. By 2050, an estimated 99% of seabirds will have ingested plastics
36. Plastic bags can increase the risk of transmission of vector- borne diseases such as malaria (blocking sewer systems and holding water.

Sources:

Break Free from Plastics (Atlas)

Single Use Plastics – A roadmap for Sustainability UN Report

Plastics and Health- The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet CIEL Report

[https://orbmedia.org/stories/Invisibles\\_plastics/](https://orbmedia.org/stories/Invisibles_plastics/)

The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, Germany,